



Article: [Comma reaches financial goal to turn newspaper into a nonprofit, so WHAT'S NEXT?](#)

Classroom Discussion Questions College Level

- 1.) The article argues that nonprofit ownership could help preserve local journalism at a time when many newspapers are shrinking or closing. In your opinion, what are the strongest advantages and potential risks of a nonprofit news model?
- 2.) Comma emphasizes transparency, community involvement, and a separation between donors and editorial decisions. Do you think nonprofit-funded journalism can realistically remain independent? Why or why not?
- 3.) The article describes local journalism as essential to building community trust and civic engagement. How might the loss of strong local newspapers impact democracy, public accountability, and community identity?
- 4.)

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 9-12

- 1.) The article explains that many newspapers are being bought by hedge funds or corporations that often make cuts to staff and coverage. How might becoming a nonprofit change the priorities of a newspaper, and what could be the benefits or drawbacks for the community?
- 2.) Comma says donors will not influence editorial decisions and that there will be a “hard firewall” between funding and journalism. Do you think people will trust that separation? Why or why not? What steps could a nonprofit newspaper take to build public trust?
- 3.) The article describes local journalism as a “community unifier” and compares Comma to a comma in a sentence — something that means “something else is coming.” Do you think local newspapers still play an important role in communities today? How could a nonprofit model impact the future of local news for younger generations?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 6-8

- 1.) The article says many newspapers are struggling to stay open. Why do you think local newspapers are important for a community, and how could becoming a nonprofit help keep them going?

- 2.) Comma says donors will not get to control what stories the newspaper covers. Why is it important for news organizations to stay independent and fair?
- 3.) The nonprofit plans to work with schools, colleges, and young writers to help train future journalists. Why do you think it is important for younger people to learn about journalism and local news?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 1-5

- 1.) Why do you think it is important to have a newspaper in your community? What kinds of things can newspapers help people learn about?
- 2.) The newspaper is becoming a nonprofit, which means people can donate money to help keep it running. Why do you think people would want to help save their local newspaper?
- 3.) The article says the newspaper wants to help teach and train future journalists. If you were a reporter, what story about your school or community would you want to write?