

# LEARNING Circle

# COMPUTER CHRONICLES



# Journalism

**Teenagers in the News.**

School: Al-Mutafawiqeen High School.

Teacher: Samah Al-Jundi.

# Teenagers in the News - Journalism

The following question may help to show the type of required information:

- 1- How often do you read newspapers?
- 2- What's your favorite newspaper? Why?
- 3- What's your favorite time to read newspapers?
- 4- Do you read your issues and problems in the local newspaper?  
Give examples.
- 5- What's your stand of the government-mouth newspapers?
- 6- What do you think newspapers are used for? Getting information or cleaning windows and car windscreen?
- 7- What percentage of newspapers covers your issues and interests?
- 8- If you could have your newspapers, what would like to read in it?  
What column would like to cover?
- 9- Fun Question: Why people read newspapers in bathrooms or toilets?

Our goal is to change teenagers' attitude towards reading and newspapers and to change the press attitude towards teenagers' issues. We want to stop misleading and misinformation.

# Teenagers in the News - Journalism

**I** read local newspapers because my father brings them home from office, and I love reading. I think our newspapers aren't bright or interesting. Sometimes, I enjoy reading some articles! The articles which deal with social problems such as: unisex schools, children abuse, students' abuse, bullying... and the like. In the local newspapers, we read the ideal image not the real one, so I don't trust the information I get. Sometimes I say: "The interviewees are telling lies just to make things brighter!" Once I read an article in Al-Thawra. It speaks about girls and boys schools. Frankly, it was a nice article!! It speaks about teenagers' problems. It speaks my problem. But it's too much typical and ideal. Life is different. If I could have a teenager newspaper, I would like to read "the truth!" Nothing but the truth.

Ayham Ali, 10<sup>th</sup> grader  
Motafawiqueen School, Damascus.  
iEARN Syria.



**J**ournalism isn't so popular at the moment. People are more interested in Internet and T.V. Traditional newspapers are in a bad condition. Our local newspapers are dull. They speak about problems but they don't give solutions. Magazines are not in a better situation. They're colorful and full of silly fashion and celebrities' silly news. I have tried to read the local newspapers but they couldn't attract me. They are so politic and boring. They're so black! No white at all! No solution. They speak about school, bullying, and violence but no solution. They speak about the old school system but again no solution. We need different journalism. We need to read our problems and learn how to control and make our life and daily routine better. If we could have our newspaper, Teenagers Newspaper, we'd like to read updated news, medical news, young writers and poets, social problems such as bribing and telling lies but in frank and real ways. We want someone to help us to have our own heroes and role models. We're sick of stars. They're false! We're sure their smiles and faces aren't real!

Muhammad and Hayan, 10<sup>th</sup> graders  
Motafawiqueen School, Damascus.  
iEARN Syria.

# Teenagers in the News - Journalism

**We** read newspapers every now and then, when there are hot news. We read the headlines, but, frankly, we do not buy newspapers. Parents bring them from their jobs free. We use them to clean windows.

Teenagers love sports so they read sport newspaper regularly. So we can say Syrian teenagers read sports, technology and computer.

This project has changed our attitude towards reading, in genera, and reading newspaper in particular! Usually, we don't read newspapers because we take for granted that we will read political news, wars, strikes and trouble all over the world. We will not read our issues, i.e. teenagers' issues. Our teacher asked us to try and to pick the article which attracts us most. Amazingly, we found some! There are environmental, social and psychological issues. Unfortunately, they are not so interesting to read.

If we could have our newspaper, we would like to read up-to-date technology, NLP issues and articles about how to solve our environmental problems. What we read, discussed the problems but no solutions. What we read, was so boring! So people take their newspaper to the bathrooms.

Teenagers should be more positive about this issue. We think we need to write letters to our newspapers asking them to cover school bullying, children abuse, teenagers free time, family problems, nutrition, cultures, communication and the like.

Finally, we need to change our habits! We need to read!

Laila, Nour, Samer and Sa'aid.

Al-Mutafawiqeen School.

iEARN Syria.



# Teenagers in the News - Journalism



## Answers to Questions...

1. How often do you read newspapers?

On average 3X a week. We mostly get our news from newspaper on the internet.

2. What's your favorite newspaper?

The LA Times and the Hi Desert Star

3. What's your favorite time to read newspapers?

In the morning before school and at school.

4. Do you read your issues and problems in the local newspaper?

Sometimes

5. What's your stand of the government-mouth newspapers?

The press is free to write what ever they wish. We have no government controlled newspapers, just ones that tend to be either liberal or conservative.

6. What do you think newspapers are used for? Getting information or cleaning?

Read it first for information and use it to clean.

7. What percentage of newspapers covers your issues and interests?

25% the rest is advertising.

8. If you could have your newspapers, what would like to read in it? What column would like to cover?

Sports, Entertainment, and Music

9. Fun Question: Why people read newspapers in bathrooms or toilets?

Hmmmm, do they?

# Teenagers in the News - Journalism

Usually, we don't read local newspapers but this project made us read them for the last two weeks. You'll be surprised when you hear us saying: "It's interesting to read newspapers!!" We enjoyed the environmental articles and the cultural ones. It's vital to know what's going on!

There are a lot of boring news but there are some interesting ones, too. Plus, some newspapers give the total permission for those ones who like to share their writing with readers.

It's our task to change our newspaper to be updated and to cover our interests and issues. We are negative!! Maybe it's not our fault. We don't have the habit of reading newspapers. We are T.V. people. Watching news is more attractive but reading news is more effective. We need to mention here that we can read newspaper at anytime and they are cheap.

If we could have a newspaper, we would cover more environmental issues. We would ask people why they are not green and we would give practical steps to make our country greener and cleaner. We would depend on teenagers more to be the information resources. We would cover teenagers' issues such as educational system, schooling, internet, medical technology and the like.

We believe that watching news is something and reading local newspaper is something else! Thank you Learning Circle for creating this chance. WE have changed our attitude. We will read and send letters to be proactive and to make our future.

Laila Al-Hariri and Nour Daoud  
Mutafawiqeen School  
iEARN Syria



## Answers to Questions...

1. How often do you read newspapers?

We read newspapers every day.

2. What's your favorite newspaper? Why?

Our favorite newspaper is jam-e-jam because it has different enclosure.

3. What's your favorite time to read newspapers?

Free time.

4. Do you read your issues and problems in the local newspaper? Give examples.

We haven't got any problems about local newspaper. We have a lot of newspaper: Iran , Hamshahri , jam-e-jam...

5. What do you think newspapers are used for? Getting information or cleaning windows and car windscreen?

We think that the newspaper is for information.

6. What percentage of newspaper covers your issues and interests?  
70%.

7. If you could have your newspaper, what would like to read in it? What column would like to cover? Sports.

8. Fun Question : Why people read newspaper in bathrooms or toilets?

We see nobody that read newspaper in bathrooms or toilets!

Maryam, Sahar, Shahrzad, Shima  
Iran

# Teenagers in the News - Journalism

## Answers to Questions...

1. How often do you read newspapers?

In the after noon & night

2. What's your favorite newspaper? Why?

Sports, because teenagers like sports very much

3. What's your favorite time to read newspapers?

leisure time

4. Do you read your issues and problems in the local newspaper? Give examples.

we can read sports' news in the "hamshahri", "jame-e-jam", "Iran" news paper. These are daily newspapers published in the afternoon.

5. What do you think newspapers are used for? Getting information or cleaning windows and car windscreen?

After reading the interesting points we usually use them for cleaning...

6. What percentage of newspaper covers your issues and interests?

About 65%

7. If you could have your newspaper, what would like to read in it? What column would like to cover?

Art & creative topics.

8. Fun Question : Why people read newspaper in bathrooms or toilets?

I think they have a relax time in the W.C & they can think about any thing.



# Teenagers in the News - Journalism

## Students' Point of View

There was a simple class survey; the following is the group's attitude!

As meant to be the public-mouth, newspapers have a big role as the primary information source for people, for that they express their interests, perspectives and understanding of events.

People in our age, studying in school, usually rely on newspapers and other media suppliers for researches about something specific which is used for school. As Internet is not available for everyone or not everyone can use it, and T.V is not the \*fast way\* for fetching some info for the wanted project, it's a good idea for students to make newspapers and magazines a starting point of a research!

But even though, as newspapers are not read by teenagers here, because of the lack of teen-concerned and school subjects-related issues published in weekly statistics, usually students feel confused about a subject to discuss.

According to different points of view, teenagers have adapted with the local newspapers we have here. Most of them even started to like them and got used to read the daily politics and local news - which I find really boring!

Miss Samah was surprised when some of the students confronted her with the fact that their most annoying problem was current political situation of Syria and the dangerous surroundings! She confessed that she completely didn't think that those stuff are our concerns.

Most students also agree that they don't find the newspaper is attractive enough to buy! But they feel like magazines scream, "buy me, buy me!!"

So as you see, really this newspaper thing depends on the person him/herself...and it just differs in fitting random age and style groups...

Regards,  
Laila Al-Hariri  
Al-Mutafawiqeen School.  
iEARN Syria.

