

The Newspaper of the Self

This assignment asks you to create an unusual newspaper. Most daily newspapers (whether they are in print or digital) contain a number of different sections, such as current events, sports, entertainment, business, and so on. Like these typical newspapers, you will create a newspaper with similar kinds of sections included, but the entire newspaper is all about you!

This assignment has three purposes:

1. Provide the reader (that would be me, your teacher) with some information about you and your life
2. Give me some idea, as we begin our work together at the start of the school year, of your writing abilities
3. Give you the opportunity to take a more in-depth look at your life as it is at this time and where you see yourself heading in the future

Assignment Requirements

- Your newspaper must have a title at the top of the front page and an index at the bottom left corner of the front page showing the page numbers where each section can be found in your newspaper.
- Your newspaper is to include all fourteen sections described after this list.
- You may add original (meaning YOU drew them) cartoons or drawings where you feel this is appropriate to enhance any particular sections.
- You may add photographs to illustrate the content of any of the sections.

Make sure you include the following fourteen sections in your newspaper. These are in no particular order of importance. You are free to arrange your Newspaper of the Self in any way that you feel is best.

1. **Current Events:** In this section, describe something that is going on in your life right now that you feel is either really interesting, very important to you, or perhaps both.
2. **Family Section:** Here, you are to describe your family. Tell me about your parents or caregivers and any other people who live with you, such as siblings. Explain how you get along with them, and any particular things that you have in common or like to do together. The more detail, the better!
3. **Dear Abby:** Write a letter to the paper outlining a problem you are actually experiencing at this time. Then think of a possible solution to your problem and write a reply to yourself. This is an opportunity for you to show what a great problem solver you are.
4. **Births, Deaths, and Marriages:** Here, you are to tell about any births, deaths, or marriages that have taken place during your life thus far that are important to you.
5. **Book Review:** Describe a book you read recently (one that you chose to read, not one that you *had* to read for school). Why did you choose to read this book? What did you like and dislike about it? If you have not read a book on your own for a very long time, use this section to describe the last book you read and why you gave up reading.
6. **Business:** Describe what you do to earn or obtain money and what you do with the money once you get it.
7. **Letter to the Editor:** Here you are to write a letter to the editor of your newspaper giving your opinion about something that is important to you. It could be local (something going on in the school or the town or city you live in) or some issue that is of national or even international importance. The most important thing here is that you chose to write about something that really matters to you. Describe what you see as the issue and how you think it ought to be addressed.
8. **Leisure:** Describe what you do in your free time. When you have no responsibilities (school, homework, job, chores, and the like), what do you like to do, and why these kinds of activities?
9. **Music:** Describe what kinds of music you like and why. Describe what kinds of music you don't like and why. Who are your favorite recording artists? Why these?
10. **Sports:** What is your favorite sport to play? What is your favorite sport to watch? Why do you like these sports? If you hate sports, describe how you came to dislike sports so much. (Remember, you weren't born hating sports, something happened.)
11. **Movies:** Describe a movie you recently saw (either in the theater, on TV, or streaming). Why did you choose this particular movie to watch? What happened in the movie? Did you like it or not, and why? Would you recommend it to a friend? Why or why not?

12. **Travel:** Describe the most interesting trip you have ever taken in your life. If you haven't taken any trips that you found interesting, describe your ideal fantasy trip—the place you could go if you could go anywhere in the world. Where would you go, what would you do, and why this particular destination?
13. **TV:** Describe your three favorite TV shows in some detail. Why are these three shows your favorites?
14. **Me in the Future:** Here, you are to imagine that whatever you want to be and whatever you want to do actually come to be. Describe what your life will be like in the future (you get to choose how old you want to be for your writing of this section of the newspaper). Explain where you will be living, what you will be doing for work, and whether or not you will have a family. This is a chance for you to describe your dreams coming true.

Remember, you are creating a newspaper that is all about you. Be specific and detailed—provide a wealth of information about you and your life. Remember, this is your first major assignment for this class, so show me the best writing you can.

Scoring Rubric

Student's Name: _____

Part 1: Requirements Completed

Note: For this section, you will automatically receive 50 out of the 50 available marks simply by (1) completing all fourteen of the required sections and (2) providing answers to all of the information for each of the sections of your newspaper as described in the following assignment requirements, which also include a front page with a title and an index.

Current Events: ____	Business: ____	Movies: ____
Family Section: ____	Letter to the Editor: ____	Travel: ____
Dear Abby: ____	Leisure: ____	TV: ____
Births, Deaths, and Marriages: ____	Music: ____	Me in the Future: ____
Book review: ____	Sports: ____	Front page has a title and an index: ____

Total Marks for Completion: ____ / 50

Part 2: Marking Standards and Weightings

The following explains how I will assess your writing for this assignment.

- A. **Thought and detail:** This refers to the degree of thought and insight you have demonstrated throughout the various sections of the assignment, as well as to the degree of detail demonstrated in your written responses to each section.
10 = Exceptional 8 = Proficient 6 = Satisfactory 5 = Basic 3 = Limited 1 = Poor
- B. **Organization:** This refers to how well you have organized each section; how interesting your opening sentence is, and how well you keep your writing focused on the specific topic of each section.
10 = Exceptional 8 = Proficient 6 = Satisfactory 5 = Basic 3 = Limited 1 = Poor
- C. **Writing mechanics:** This refers to the degree to which your writing is free from errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.
10 = Exceptional 8 = Proficient 6 = Satisfactory 5 = Basic 3 = Limited 1 = Poor
- D. **Grammar and word usage:** This refers to the degree to which your writing is free from errors in word usage, sentence fragments, awkward phrasing, unclear meaning, and the like.
10 = Exceptional 8 = Proficient 6 = Satisfactory 5 = Basic 3 = Limited 1 = Poor
- E. **Matters of choice:** This refers to the appropriateness of the choices you have made in your writing, the examples you have chosen to illustrate your points, and the words you have chosen to get your message across to the reader.
10 = Exceptional 8 = Proficient 6 = Satisfactory 5 = Basic 3 = Limited 1 = Poor

Total marks: ____ / 50

General Comments

Part 1 marks: ____ / 50

Part 2 marks: ____ / 50

Final mark: ____ / 100 = ____%