
Publish! PUBLISH! Publish!

Inspiring Students to Collaborate on, Produce and Share their Best Work

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The opportunity to publish inspires students to collaborate on, refine and share their best creative work. We'll explore and compare a variety of elementary publishing projects - a school newspaper, and a school anthology, and a variety of class-made books. Learn how to accommodate and leverage the myriad of abilities and learning styles. See how these projects were organized, funded and carried out through creative staffing, grants, scheduling and volunteer support. We'll share templates, how-to instructions, and sample school newspapers, books and anthologies, along with student responses to the projects. Learn how struggling students were included and empowered through these projects.

Getting Organized

Your Newspaper Team can be your whole class, an afterschool club, or a cross-grade group that meets for this special project. Our cross-grade teams often involved three students from each class: a gifted student, an academically average kid (usually with solid social skills), and a student with learning difficulties, usually with an IEP. In addition to your newsteam, you'll need a place to meet with access to computer(s), printer(s), and possibly digital cameras, scanners, drawing materials, and perhaps a graphics pad. Portable word processors and voice recorders (tape or mp3) are helpful for interviewing.



The Anthology is a school-wide (or grade-wide or at least class-wide project). It is critical to get the buy-in of all teachers involved, as you'll need to collect writing pieces from each. You'll also need a crew of volunteer typists and editors, and you'll need a timeline for creating, collecting, editing, illustrating, and assembling the pieces for the printer.



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Leveraging Diverse Learning Styles & Abilities

In a **Newspaper Project**, students work both individually and collaboratively as they brainstorm, plan, research, interview, take notes, write, draw, photograph, edit, design, print and distribute a newspaper. The diversity of activities allows students to work with their strengths, and to pair up with another student who has complimentary strengths. For instance, a student who has trouble sitting still, listening or writing may make a fantastic interviewer or photographer, while a more timid but very organized student becomes the note-taker. Logical mathematical thinkers can pair up with visual learners to plan the layout. In many cases, it takes effort for students with different thinking styles to work together, but the project requires these differences and students often seem to almost sense that, along with the satisfaction of completing the project.



In an **Anthology Project**, all students are involved. Diverse writing projects and supports are used. Some students write poetry, while others venture into expository, persuasive or comparative writing. Some students make use of electronic writing templates, graphic organizers, talking word processors, spell checkers, and/or peer or adult writing partners. Some schools have paired each child up with a senior citizen to share stories and get feedback.

Funding Opportunities

Federal Grants: One school newspaper was an activity under the auspices of a model-demonstration grant on computer-based learning strategies; staffing time was paid by the grant.

Local Grants: One school received a \$2,000 grant from a local education funding non-profit, which paid for the coaching and technical support needed. Large chains often provide mini-grants to schools, in the range of \$500 - \$2,000 -- often enough to provide a small stipend to the supervisor/coach of the anthology or newspaper.

Fundraising: One parent council raised funds to pay a technology coach for 8 hours per week, which included leading a newspaper group and support an anthology project.

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Staffing

It takes one or more adults to coach or supervise each project, with at least one person who is familiar with the tools in use. The newspaper typically requires more advanced and diverser technology skills, whereas the anthology mostly relies on word processing.



Volunteers



Volunteers have been key to making both newspapers and anthologies happen, especially the anthology. Tap into the expertise of parents, university student interns, and even retired writers, reporters or teachers. Volunteers don't need extensive technology skills, but they DO need to be respectful to students,

good humored and flexible. Our volunteers type, edit, brainstorm with kids, accompany kids on interviews, photo shoots and printing jobs, and more.

Scheduling

Our **News Teams** have met two ways:

- 1) A one-hour-per-week News Team can generally publish one or two high quality newspapers per semester.
- 2) With an hour and 15 min. three mornings in a row, plus some sacrificed recess time, some teams have completed an edition. The momentum of working on consecutive days is very helpful.

Our **Anthology Projects** usually occur in the Spring, with planning beginning in the previous Fall. Sample timelines and instructions are on the web site. Writing usually occurs in class or possibly as a homework assignment, and editing usually occurs with a peer or adult partner.

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More Publishing Resources

Explore more samples, how to's and web resources for digital

photograph and publishing projects for kids at :

www.4j.lane.edu/~haugen/

To learn even more about publishing with kids, explore the following web sites:

Do news research on the web.

www.lausd.k12.ca.us/kids/newspaper.html

Publish kids' stories on the web - you can even add your own paragraph to the site's "never-ending story."

www.kidpub.org/kidpub/

Young Writers Association: A local resource for inspiring and showcasing young writers in Lane County, Oregon. www.ywalane.org/

News-2-You - weekly symbol-supported news and news resources for emerging and struggling readers, by subscription. News-related symbol resources for student writing. (TRLD 2005 participants can get a trial one week subscription for free!) www.news-2-you.com/

Think.com - free, private web sites, online tools and restricted e-mail for all the students in your school. www.think.com/en_us/

Writely.com - free resource for collaborative writing and editing on the web. www.writely.com/

The Spirit of Our Anthology

by Velvet G.

Grade 3, Room 7/8

A is for the Adventurous efforts of all the students who wrote for this Anthology.

N is for the Natural storytellers we all are.

T is for all the Thinking we did to write our pieces.

H is for the Hall of Fame we all get into when we do our best.

O is for keeping an Open mind.

L is for Liberty ~ the freedom to write what we think, feel, and know.

O is for the Outrageous outcomes you'll find in this anthology.

G is for the Great opportunity to write and be published.

Y stands for You and me, because WE created this.



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