How do you learn about news? Social media, Internet searches, television, friends and family?

In the past, paper newspapers were a part of everyday life and a very important source of information. Newspapers were the social media of the past!

Newspapers told you what was happening locally, nationally, and even internationally! You could read about sports (both national and local) and even social news. They had advertisements for anything you needed or wanted, a house for rent or sale and a job, and comics. Many papers even contained children's bedtime stories. Historic newspapers can tell us a lot about how life has changed and how it has stayed the same, what life was like in our country, state, and town at different periods in time.
Delaware Newspapers

No one is sure when the first newspaper was published in Delaware. Some accounts suggest there was a newspaper published in 1760 under the name Wilmington Chronicle. Others suggest that a man named James Adams, the first printer in Delaware, published the Wilmington Courant in 1761. Unfortunately, no known copies of either of these newspapers exist today.

It wasn't until 1785, when printer Jacob Killen began publishing the Delaware Gazette, that we have the first known long-running newspaper. The Delaware Gazette existed under various names for 97 years!

Most newspapers were published weekly but around the time of the Civil War (1864), some newspapers began to publish daily issues to meet the demands of news hungry Delawareans. Eventually, newspaper publishers began printing morning and evening editions of their newspapers.

Why do you think newspaper publishers felt it was worth printing two newspapers a day?

Do you think the news articles in the evening edition would be different than the morning edition?
From its beginnings, Delaware has had over 200 local newspapers, with some of the larger cities having more than one to serve their residents. While newspapers published news of importance for all citizens of Delaware, some were published for a specific audience.

The Delaware Abolitionist was founded in 1847 by the Delaware Anti-Slavery Society and was devoted to “Emancipation in Delaware”, printing articles about slavery and emancipation.

African American residents of Delaware fighting the inequalities of the post-Civil War period might have subscribed to the Advance. Founded in 1899, this newspaper only lasted until about 1901.

At the height of immigration to the United States in the mid-late 1900s, several newspapers were published that catered to the needs of the immigrant population.

- Il Fuoco – Italian
- Wilmington Lokal-Anzeiger und Wilmington Freie Presse – German

Why do you think there was a need to publish special interest newspapers like the ones listed above?

Hoy En Delaware is a Spanish language newspaper published in Delaware today. Are there other groups in Delaware that might want a special newspaper?
Let’s Take a Closer Look at Newspapers

THE PARTS OF A NEWSPAPER

Masthead - name of the newspaper, often includes a location as well.

Headline - summarizes the news article in one line.

Drophead - a subheading under the headline.

Byline - the author of the article.

Lead - the first paragraph of the article, catches the readers attention and usually summarizes who, what, when, where, and why.

Images - add interest to a news article.

Caption - a description of the photos and images.

Sidebar - extra information about the article’s subject.
Create a Weekly Family Newspaper

You are the most important resource future historians will have in order to study what is happening today. Creating a family newspaper will help historians understand what it was like to live through the COVID 19 Pandemic.

1. **Read the Back Copies**
   Before you begin, check out sample newspapers. You can view historic newspapers for free at [https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/).

2. **What’s the Scoop?**
   Decide what you want to report. Gather your news. Record interviews. Make sure you take good notes so you remember what to write. Be prepared to report on more than one story.

   Need some inspiration? Here are some ideas for articles: family game/movie night, how your family is celebrating special events, interesting or funny things that happen, interesting conversations your family has, how virtual schooling is going for you, how working from home is going for your parents.

3. **Know Your Topic**
   Do some extra research about the topics of your articles.

   If you are writing about family game night, research the history of board games. Include this information in your article.

4. **Gather Your Artwork**
   Some articles have images to go along with them. Take or draw pictures to include with your articles.

5. **Making Headlines**
   Once you have your topic, research, and interviews, it's time to start writing!

   Be sure to write in the third person objective or textbook voice – no thoughts or feeling, just report facts. Do not use *I, we, you, our*. Do not include your opinion.
6. Fill the Columns
Newspapers always have more than one article. Include current events, sports, movie or book reviews, music news – anything that interests you. Include a comic, a crossword puzzle, jokes, weather, or horoscopes. Get creative!

7. Putting the Paper to Bed
Your articles are written and they’re ready to head to the printer so let’s publish your newspaper! Once you have gathered your news articles and other components, compile them to create your newspaper. Below are some sample templates you can use or create your own template.

You can also visit http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/Printing_Press/ to create a newspaper online.

8. Hot Off the Press!
Distribute your newspaper to your family or share it digitally with friends and other family. With your parent’s or guardians permission share it with the Delaware Historical Society...

See the following pages for more Resources, including Reporting Tips and Newspaper Story Format.
## Newspaper Planner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT?</th>
<th>WHY?</th>
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<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN and WHERE?</th>
<th>WHO?</th>
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**Creative ideas:**
Reporting Tips

1. **Accuracy**
   Make sure you have the facts right (including how to spell names).

2. **Audience**
   Keep in mind the audience who will read the paper. Is your story of interest to them?

3. **Interviews**
   It may be necessary to schedule an interview. Prepare your questions ahead of time. Take notes during the interview and ask for clarification when needed. If possible, use a quote to make your story more interesting.

4. **Research**
   Use reference materials to get the facts you need, or check facts that you have collected.

5. **Writing**
   Start with a good lead. You want to grab the reader’s attention and make him or her want to read more. Don’t forget to answer the five *Ws* and leave out your opinion!

6. **Images**
   It’s never too soon to start thinking about what images you want to go along with your story. Do you need a digital photo or clipart? Make sure you don’t wait until the last minute.
Newspaper Story Format

Name _______________________

Enter Lead/Headline

Enter the Five W’s in these boxes

Enter three less important details in these boxes

Enter the least important detail in the final box
Sample Newspaper Template

Masthead

City, State                Vol. #           Date

Headline

Subheading

Image

Article

Article

Article

Image

Caption