



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

AUTHORITY IN THE NEWS

By Natalie Stevens

Activity Description

Students will read newspaper articles and identify the various sources of authority in each article. This can be completed in various ways, but it is recommended that students work in groups of three or four. One option is to have the teacher provide students with whole newspapers and have them locate their own articles. Students should find at least one article for each source of authority. This would work best with high school students. Another option would be to distribute preselected articles and have the students identify the source of authority for each. With either option, students will glue the article to chart paper and provide a detailed summary of why they think each article fits within that particular source of authority.

Suggested Grade Level

Upper elementary through high school

Estimated Time to Complete

30–45 minutes; depends on whether students are looking through the whole newspaper or using preselected articles

Objectives

Students will

- refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text;
- explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text;
- explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular point in a text;
- determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details;
- provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

Materials Needed

- Multiple newspapers
- *Foundations of Democracy: Authority* text
- Scissors
- Chart paper
- Glue

- Markers