

*If students are to make knowledge their own, they must struggle with the details, wrestle with the facts, and rework raw information and dimly understood concepts into language they can communicate to someone else."*

The College Board's Blue Ribbon Panel on a  
National Commission on Writing in America's Schools.

## **"Newspaper Article Assignment"**

*7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science*



Science and technology dramatically affect the society in which we all live. New discoveries and applications are constantly being discovered. It is important for you as students and young adults to know and understand the impact science and technology has in your daily life. Many of the changes and advancements become political and moral issues that you should be aware of and understand as a Catholic in today's society.

Much of the current news in Science you can find in newspapers and other everyday publications. As a means of encouraging you to be aware of the world around you, and develop critical thinking skills, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade is required to do "Newspaper Assignments". Every five - six weeks three of these will be due. You will have a schedule with the dates due for the year. The due dates will also be posted on line.

The articles you read and report on are articles of **your** choice. There are many subjects in the news that qualify as "science". In addition to the obvious news of discoveries or articles in the Science section, you can read about environmental issues, medical news, water and power issues, earthquakes, major weather articles etc. However, there must be scientific information in the article. (As an example, you cannot use an article that is just a weather report). Advertisements are not acceptable. If you are unsure whether or not an article will "count", ask me about it! You do not have to read and report on multi page "in-depth" articles, but the articles should not be one paragraph type articles either. (If there is an in-depth article that interests you, it may be able to count as two or three, but you must have prior approval.) This is a current events assignment; therefore all articles must be timely. The article must be from the time frame of the assignment. Magazine and Internet articles are also acceptable.

This is not a research project; one well written and complete page may be fine. You should however be thoughtful and analytical in your reading and writing about the articles you chose. If you do not understand anything you have read, get another article! Typed papers are required, as is neatness, proper spelling and grammar!



## Requirements:

### Heading:

*Newspaper or periodical:* Title of article, name of reporter or news service it is from, publication the article was in, date of publication

*Internet:* name of website, who or what organization the site is from, date accessed and web address

Summary: In your own words summarize the article. Show in your summary a basic understanding of what you have read.

### Answer the following questions:

(You must use complete sentences that indicate what the question was. You may answer the questions individually, or you may write in a paragraph format as long as these questions are covered. Be thoughtful and complete in your answers)

1. Why did you pick this article?
2. What was the author's purpose or point in writing this article?
3. What impact is this discovery/news having now, and what implications or possibilities are there for the future?
4. Are there any political or moral aspects to the news? Explain why or why not. What do **you** think?
5. What are some comments or ideas you might have after reading this article? (Did you enjoy it, did it accomplish what the author intended, did you learn something, do you see a situation differently now etc? Give your thoughts and opinions about what you read.)

The article itself, a copy or print out of each one that you read and write on, **MUST BE** attached to your assignment.

*If you have any questions about this assignment please come see me*

### Hints for Summarizing

- Delete unimportant material that is unnecessary to understanding the article.
- Delete redundant material
- Substitute super ordinate terms for lists (e.g. flowers for daisies, tulips and roses)
- Select a topic sentence or invent one if there isn't any
- Read the whole thing and analyze it for understanding before you write your summary
- Be able to put the summary in your own words; don't just copy select sentences from the article

