



CLASSROOM MAGAZINES

The New York Times Upfront Reinforces Social Studies and Literacy Skills



The *New York Times Upfront* uses age-appropriate articles from *The New York Times* to teach junior high and high school students about both the present and the past. By reading *Upfront* students gain an understanding of current and historical events, and are exposed to a variety of perspectives on these topics. At the same time, *Upfront* helps students sharpen their critical thinking skills and gives them a chance to discuss and write about world and national issues of relevance to them.

The following essential skills are addressed in *The New York Times Upfront* for Grades 8 to 12:

SOCIAL STUDIES

- **Learn about current and historical events and issues which are relevant and interesting to teenagers, including:**
 - Culture
 - Time, continuity, and change
 - People, places, and environments
 - Individual development and identity
 - Individuals, groups, and institutions
 - Power, authority, and governance
 - Production, distribution, and consumption
 - Science, technology, and society
 - Global connections
 - Civic ideals and practices
- **Gain a variety of perspectives on one issue in order to enhance understanding of an issue.**
- **Practice analysis and critical thinking skills.**
- **Discuss and debate complex and relevant current and historical issues.**
- **Examine and understand the relationship between history and the present.**
- **Analyze a variety of maps and practice map skills.**
- **Examine and understand social studies issues in a deep and meaningful way through writing and discussion.**

READING COMPREHENSION

- **Experience reading as an enjoyable and useful activity.**
- **Practice reading a variety of nonfiction articles addressing current and historical events.**
- **Read with a purpose.**
- **Use the following comprehension strategies specifically important for reading nonfiction texts and articles:**
 - Interpret text
 - Evaluate text
 - Pose questions
 - Retell
 - Analyze and synthesize ideas
 - Make inferences
- **Use the text to develop and support opinions.**
- **Answer questions based on the text.**
- **Make personal connections to the text.**
- **Gain and apply an understanding of a variety of nonfiction features found in newspapers and magazines, such as:**
 - Editorials and op-ed articles
 - Maps, graphs, and charts
 - Quotes
 - Interviews
 - Statistics
 - Diagrams
 - Political cartoons
- **Use a variety of media to enhance understanding of a topic.**

SCHOLASTIC

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The New York Times Upfront for Grades 8 to 12

WRITING

- Experience writing as an enjoyable and useful activity.
- Practice essay writing skills by writing five-paragraph essays on issues read and discussed.
- Write with a specific purpose and for a specific audience.
- Write in different genres:
 - Short and long essays
 - Letters
 - Persuasive pieces
 - Reflection pieces
 - Critique pieces
- Expand knowledge and further analyze issues through writing about topics learned.
- Answer different types of questions:
 - Short answer
 - Multiple choice
 - Fill-in-the-blanks

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- Read aloud a variety of genres.
- Practice conversation skills through discussions of text.
- Learn and use new content vocabulary.
- Practice communication and public speaking skills through debates:
 - Present opinions with supporting information
 - Practice speaking for a specific audience
- Practice strategies to determine word meanings:
 - Use information about word parts
 - Use context clues
 - Use definitions given within the text

RESEARCH SKILLS

- Articles and issues provide students with opportunities for further research and enable students to develop the following research skills:
 - Gather and present research through debates and writing activities
 - Expand understanding about an issue through additional research
- Independently research a variety of topics related to the text.
- Use the Internet for research and information purposes.
- Use research to develop strong, supported opinions and ideas.

TEST PREPARATION

- Practice answering questions similar to those on standardized tests.
- Practice general test-taking strategies.
- Answer different types of questions in preparation for standardized tests:
 - Multiple choice
 - Fill-in-the-blanks
 - Open-ended questions
 - Vocabulary
 - Critical thinking
 - Comprehension

Maps, photographs, and graphs help students visualize and better understand the issues at hand.

Articles address important current events as well as issues relevant to students' lives.

Every issue of *Upfront* includes political cartoons, which serve as tools for discussion and enhance students' understanding of current events.

Opposing opinions and perspectives on an issue serve as a springboard for further debate and analysis.

