

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1 Do a Search For Philanthropy

Holidays are a time of giving and philanthropy, both by celebrities and business corporations. Your eEdition allows you to search recent editions of the newspaper for stories on subjects that interest you. Use the Advanced Search features of the eEdition to find different ways celebrities or corporations are giving to others this holiday season. Start by searching for the words “business” and “giving.” Then combine “business” with the word “philanthropy” or “donation.” Repeat the process, pairing the word “celebrity” with “giving,” “philanthropy” or “donation.” Write a paragraph summarizing your findings. Then discuss how having the ability to search for recent stories can be a benefit to readers.

Learning Standards: Defining subject searching and devising a search strategy to locate information using available electronic research resources; demonstrating knowledge of changes in technologies and the effect those changes have.

2 The Aughts

Most decades in the past century have been defined by certain styles and cultural leanings. If you say someone has an '80s hairstyle or is wearing a dress from the '60s, people will know exactly what you mean. But this past decade didn't even get an easy way to refer to it – people couldn't decide if they should call it the '00s, the 0's, the aughts (an old-fashioned term for zeroes) or something totally different. Using the eEdition for ideas, divide into groups and come up with a name for the past decade (2000-2009). Present your idea to the class. Explain how it represents the decade and why it's the best name.

Learning Standards: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about topics of interest or importance; functioning as literate individuals in varied contexts within students' lives in and beyond the classroom.

3 Makeup

John Dittullo is on trial for murder in Florida. The judge hearing his case ordered the state to pay \$150 a day for a makeup artist to cover tattoos on Dittullo's face and neck. The concern was that the tattoos – which include a neo-Nazi symbol and barbed wire – would unfairly influence the jury. Pick three photos in the eEdition that show a person. Don't read the articles that the photos accompany. For each photo, write down everything you think you “know” about the person, based on his or her appearance. Then read the article to see if you can verify any of your guesses.

Learning Standard: Focusing on meaning and communication while listening, speaking, viewing, reading and writing in personal, social, occupational and civic contexts.

4 Mosque

The European country of Switzerland has voted to ban the building of minarets, a type of thin tower that's a traditional part of a mosque, a Muslim house of worship. The vote drew attention and sparked debate, largely because it focuses on religion. What would happen if the United States tried to ban a religious symbol, such as a cross on a church? Using information from books, the eEdition and online sources, write a report answering that question.

Learning Standards: Locating information pertaining to a specific social science topic in-depth, using a variety of sources and electronic technologies; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

5 Issues

Sarah Palin has been in the news a lot lately, thanks to a new book and its accompanying book tour. Palin is the former governor of Alaska who campaigned to be vice president with Republican presidential candidate John McCain. They lost to Barack Obama and Joe Biden in the 2008 election, but

recent polls show that in terms of popularity, Obama and Palin aren't far apart. Last week a Gallup Poll put Obama's approval rating at 47 percent, while a CNN/Opinion Research Poll showed Palin's at 46 percent. Using information from the eEdition and online sources, make a chart comparing the opinions of President Obama and Sarah Palin on five different issues. Add a third column to the chart to write whom you agree with on each issue and why.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from books, maps, newspapers, eEditions, data sets and other sources; organizing and presenting the information; interpreting the meaning and significance of the information.

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For Tomorrow