

GRADE 5

Reading News Online

What are the important parts of an online news article?



OVERVIEW

Kids find and read news in lots of different ways. But studies show they're not very good at interpreting what they see. How can we help them get better? Teaching your students about the structure of online news articles is an important place to start.

Students will be able to:

- Understand the purposes of different parts of an online news page.
- Identify the parts and structure of an online news article.
- Learn about things to watch out for when reading online news pages, such as sponsored content and advertisements.

Lesson Snapshot

Estimated time: 45 mins.

Warm Up:	The News You Know	5 mins.
Explore:	The Parts of a News Site	20 mins.
Watch:	How to Read News Online	10 mins.
Wrap Up:	Label a News Page	10 mins.

Key Standards Supported

Common Core ELA

L.5.4, L.5.4c, L.5.6, RF.5.4, RF.5.4a, RI.5.4, RI.5.5, RI.5.7, RI.5.10, SL.5.1a, SL.5.1b, SL.5.1c, SL.5.1d, SL.5.4, SL.5.5, SL.5.6, W.5.4, W.5.10

CASEL

1a, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 5e, 5f

AASL

I.A.2, I.B.3, I.D.1, I.D.2, I.D.3, I.D.4, II.A.2, II.B.1, II.B.2, II.B.3, II.C.1, II.C.2, II.D.1, II.D.2, III.A.2, III.A.3, III.B.1, III.B.2, III.C.2, III.D.1, III.D.2, IV.A.1, IV.A.2, IV.A.3, IV.B.1, IV.B.2, IV.B.3, IV.B.4, IV.D.1

ISTE

2b, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d

What You'll Need

Spanish-language student and family resources available soon!

- Scissors and glue
- Blank paper
- **Lesson Slides**
- Video: Reading News Online **Watch**
- Student Handout: Mix & Match Cards **Student Version**
- Student Handout: Label A News Page **Student Version**
- Lesson Quiz **Editable Google form Answer Key**

Take-home resources

- **Family Tips**
- **Family Activity**
- **Family Engagement Resources**

LESSON PLAN

Key Vocabulary:

article

a written story in a newspaper, magazine, or online news site

commercial

intended to make money

news

new information about recent or important events

Warm Up: **The News You Know**

5 mins.

Before the Lesson: For the Explore activity, print out two **Mix & Match Student Handout**. Cut out and shuffle all of the cards from one copy, and keep the other copy as reference.

As an optional activity before the lesson, have students play the **Search Shark** game in Digital Passport™ by Common Sense Education. This will help introduce key concepts of this lesson. To see more, check out the **Digital Passport Educator Guide**.

1. **Ask:** *When you want to get the latest news, where do you look?* Students may say they get news from their parents, teachers, television, newspapers, etc.

Define **news** as *new information about recent or important events*. (Slide 4)

2. **Project** the example online news page on **Slide 5**. Ask students to raise their hand if they've ever seen a news site like this before.

Invite two to three students to share where they saw it. Follow up by asking whether they remember which news article they read on the news page. If necessary, clarify that an **article** is a written story in a newspaper, in a magazine, or on an online news website.

4. **Say:** *Every part of an online news article has a name and a purpose. Reading news online can be tricky because there's a lot of stuff that may look like news, but it's not. So it's important to learn the difference!*

(**Tip:** Use this warm-up as an opportunity to gauge students' prior knowledge of the elements of an online news article and to get a sense of their overall level of news literacy.)

3. **Point** to the news article's headline. Ask for a volunteer to read the headline aloud to the class. Ask: *What do you think the purpose of a headline in a news article is? Take turns sharing your idea with your partner.*

Invite students to share out. Sample responses: It tells what the news article is about, it summarizes the article, it makes you want to read more, etc.

Explore: **The Parts of a News Site**

20 mins.

1. **Hand out** the shuffled stack of **Mix & Match Student Handout** cards, one per student.

(**Tip:** Consider handing the cards out strategically, as some are harder to figure out than others.)

2. **Project Slide 6** and say: *We're going to do a mix-and-match activity. You're going to identify the parts of an online news article and of a news website. Each part of an article has three elements. Your job is to use the clues on the cards to find your two other partners to form a group of three.*

1. *Each of you has a card that says either the **name** of a part of a news article, the **description**, or the **purpose**.*

2. *There is one of each type of card (name, description, and purpose) for each part of the article. For example, headline has a name card, a description card, and a purpose card.*

3. *To find your group, pair up with people and take turns reading your cards aloud to each other. Look for clues on your cards (like similar words or ideas) to help you decide if your cards belong in the same group.*

4. *Once you've found a match, work together to try to find the third person who belongs in your group.*

5. *Once you've found your group of three, sit down together and get ready to read your information to the class.*

Confirm that students understand directions and then have them begin. Allow students five minutes to find their groups.

(**Tip:** If students have difficulty finding their group, use the clue icon on the card in the lower-right corner. These are unique to each group and can help students confirm that they've found the right match.)

3. **Say:** *We're going to review each name, description, and purpose of an online news article and website that surrounds it. When we review your term, you'll be asked to read your card to the class.*

Refer to your copy of the **Mix & Match Student Handout**. For each term, locate the group of students and have them read the name, description, and purpose from their cards.

4. **Explain** that it's important to know the difference between a news article and other parts of a news website that represent commercial interests. Define **commercial** as *intended to make money*. Point out that advertisements and sponsored content are parts of a news website that are commercial. (You could even invite these groups to stand up.)

Watch: **How to Read News Online**

10 mins.

1. **Ask:** *Why do you think it's important to know the different parts of an online news article and website? Answers may include to help you understand the article, because they tell you what the article is about, or so you know which parts are the article and which aren't.* Emphasize the importance of being informed and understanding how online news articles work.

2. **Distribute** a blank sheet of paper to each student. Show the **Reading News Online** video on **Slide 7**. Ask students to record two or three things that the video says to look out for when reading news online.

3. **Invite** students to share their notes on what to look out for when reading news online. Answers can include:

- **URL:** Always double-check to make sure you're actually on the page you're looking for.
- **Headlines:** They sometimes exaggerate or say something different from the article to get you to click on them.
- **Sections:** If you want the facts, just be sure you're not on an opinion article.
- **Byline:** If there's no byline or date, the article might not be trustworthy.
- **Images** (or videos): Might be too crazy to be true, or misleading, or might be advertisements.
- **Related articles:** Could be opinion pieces or other things that aren't news articles.
- **Sponsored content:** Can include shocking headlines or wild images to get you to click on them.
- **Advertisements:** Can be disguised to look like news articles. Don't let them fool you.
- **Comments:** Are open for anyone to post, even if what they have to say is mean or completely untrue.

Wrap Up: **Label a News Page**

10 mins.

1. **Hand out** the **Label a News Page Student Handout**, scissors, and glue. (You can have students complete this step individually, in pairs, or in groups.) Read the directions aloud and circulate to assist any groups that may need help. Allow students 10 minutes to work. (**Slide 8**)
2. **Collect** students' labeled sheets. If there's time, go through the correct answers and clarify any mislabeling. (**Slides 9-18**)
3. **Have** students complete the **Lesson Quiz**. Send home the **Family Activity** and **Family Tips**.

Extension Activity:

Use the **Deceptive Detective Poster** as a springboard for further discussion about how to identify trustworthy news sources online.



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