

Secondary

Science, Health and Safety Activities

- Using your newspaper, collect product and service advertisements of things that were not available 30 years ago. Discuss the scientific advancements that have made these new products and services available to the public.
- Cut pictures of animals and plants from the newspaper and on a large sheet of paper glue them into their species categories.
- Study the periodic chart of the elements. Use a red marker to write the appropriate chemical symbols on articles, ads or anything else that mentions an element.
- Find articles in your local newspaper that discuss water and/or air pollution and discuss the causes and possible remedies. Write a science fiction story telling how life could be in another 100 years if the pollution problem isn't solved.
- Using the same articles as above, have a panel discussion on pollution and its effects on your community.
- Keep a collection of newspaper articles that discuss a local health problem. Determine the most significant health problems for your community.
- Find articles about potentially dangerous household substances, such as bathroom cleaners, drain openers, over-the-counter medications, etc. Make a chart of them; classify each substance as an acid or base and list the antidote needed if an accidental ingestion or overdose occurred.
- Make a bulletin board of community health services offered in your town such as rehabilitation centers, poison control centers or Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Draw a map of your county. During the semester look for articles about any type of conservation matters occurring in your county and cut them from the newspaper. Post them on the board around your map. Connect each with string or yarn to the location within the county.
- Design a newspaper advertisement for a health care agency to run in your local newspaper.
- Research the area of drugs, tobacco or alcohol and write an article that informs the local readers of the dangers of one of the substances.
- Look in the classified ads to find job listings for the medical/health professions. What is the median pay range? Job requirements? Education requirements? Benefits? Opportunities for advancement?
- Every week, look for any ads that may claim "cures" or "amazing break throughs" for diseases or other medical or cosmetic problems. Discuss those ads in class and the persuasion techniques used to encourage people into purchasing the product or service offered.
- Cut out articles telling of the work and problems of local health agencies and services. Write a help wanted ad for a position at one of the agencies.
- Study a story reporting an accident. Can you determine the probable cause of the accident? Could the accident have been avoided? If someone was injured, could the injury have been avoided or its severity reduced?
- Using the grocery store flyers for this week, if the newspaper has any, ask you students to plan healthy meals for the next seven days.
- Have your students keep a clipping file of scientific and medical advances that are reported in the newspaper.
- Collect advertisements for over-the-counter medicines. Discuss the accuracy of the claims made.
- Let your students develop a method of making predictions. For example, given one article in the newspaper, can they predict how often the word "the" will appear in the newspaper?
- Using photographs in the newspaper determine the percentage of people in the population who have dark colored hair and who have light colored hair. Do this for other characteristics.