

Newspaper-Based Readers' Theater

Newspaper articles can easily be turned into readers' theater pieces that can be read dramatically by a group of four or five students.

Cast of Characters

Narrator _____

Character 1 _____

Character 2 _____

Character 3 _____

Script

Portion of Article to Retell: _____

Sound Effects: _____

Props: _____

Quotes: _____

Main Idea of the Article: _____

Directions:

Look for an interesting article that involves several people and includes quotes. Work with a group of three or more students to turn the article into a readers' theater play. Create a script, with narration, sound effects, dialogue and simple gestures and props.

Select one person to be the narrator. This person will read the non-quote paragraphs. Identify the people quoted in the article and assign readers to represent these people by reading their quotes. A reader may read for more than one person.

Mark up the article, eliminating unnecessary words such as "he said." You do not need to tell the entire story—you may choose to focus on one part of the article. Narration parts may be shortened and additional lines may be added for each reader, as long as they keep the meaning of the story. Decide on sound effects, gestures and if you will use simple props.

Practice several times before performing the skit for your class.

RUBRIC

Self-Check

1. I worked with my group to select an article that includes quotes.
2. I helped identify and assign roles for the play.
3. I helped edit and revise the script.
4. I assumed the role of at least one character and performed the script.