

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1

Goal-Oriented

September is a good time to think about what you want to accomplish this school year. Using the eEdition for ideas, make a list of five personal and academic goals. You can look for articles and ads about places you'd like to visit, people who've achieved something you'd like to do, jobs for which you want to start building skills or anything else. Put your list of goals in a safe place. In two or three months, take the list out and think about what progress you've made toward your goals.

Learning Standards: Acquiring information from multiple sources; applying knowledge, ideas and issues drawn from texts to students' lives and the lives of others.

2

Comedy

In an article in Time magazine last week, Richard Zoglin wrote that comedians find it a lot harder to tell jokes about President Obama than it was to poke fun at President Bush or President Clinton. He attributes the "problem" to Obama's intelligence, relaxed style and ability to laugh at himself. Can you come up with a joke about the president? Look through the eEdition and find an article about a law Obama is trying to pass, or a speech he made or something else he's doing. Pretend you're a standup comedian or a political cartoonist, and either write three jokes or draw a cartoon based on the article you found.

Learning Standards: Demonstrating the ability to use different voices in oral and written communication to persuade, inform, entertain and inspire audiences; identifying and using aspects of the craft of the speaker, writer and illustrator to formulate and express ideas artistically.

3

Etymology

In September of 1644, the territory New Amsterdam got a name change. The Dutch governor of New Amsterdam handed the area over to the British, who renamed it New York, after the Duke of York. In groups, pick 10 cities, towns, streets or buildings mentioned in the eEdition. Then use the Internet and books to find out where their names come from. For each, write a sentence or two explaining the name origin. Then look up the origin of your name. What nationality is it from? What other names are similar to yours?

Learning Standards: Investigating idiomatic phrases and word origins and how they have contributed to contemporary meaning; explaining and using resources that are most appropriate and readily available for investigating a particular question or topic.

4

Cash

Country music legend Johnny Cash died on September 12, 2003. He had been a popular singer since the 1950s. Country music is known for storytelling. Many country tunes are similar to ballads, which are songs or poems that tell a story. With the eEdition as a resource, write your own ballad, in song or poetry form, based on an issue or event being written about this week. Come up with a chorus to repeat during the ballad, if you like. Read or perform your ballads for the class.

Learning Standards: Recognizing and using varied techniques to construct text, convey meaning and express feelings to influence an audience; reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

5

Search by Date

Your eEdition allows you to access information in a variety of ways. One feature allows you to search previous editions for topics that interest you. Another lets you look at entire editions of the eEdition from different days. This can be done by using the toolbar option that allows you to view

eEditions by date. Find that option on the home page of your eEdition. Then scan the front page of the eEdition for every day over the last week. List what the top stories were on each day. Were stories on the same topic front-page news on different days? Write a paragraph summarizing the top story for the week and why that story got front-page coverage. Then write a sentence describing the advantages of having the ability to compare eEditions from different days.

Learning Standard: Understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology.

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for Tomorrow