

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

## 1 Indecent Exposure

Last week a woman in the African country of Sudan was sent to jail for wearing pants. Sudanese law forbids women from wearing “indecent clothing,” though it doesn’t specify pants. Journalist Lubna Hussein was convicted of public indecency and fined \$200. The court sentenced her to jail when she refused to pay the fine. In groups, look at ads and photos featuring people in newspapers, Web sites and eEditions from different parts of the world, including a local paper. Pick three ads or photos that show people wearing different types of clothes. For each, write a paragraph explaining what the clothes say about the people. Think about what types of jobs they might have and what their clothes suggest about their cultures.

Learning Standards: Describing, comparing and explaining the locations and characteristics of races, cultures and settlements; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

## 2 Capital Crime

A recent article in the magazine *The New Yorker* suggests that an innocent man received the death penalty in Texas five years ago. Cameron Todd Willingham was executed for deliberately starting a fire that killed his three children, but evidence now indicates that the fire was an accident, not arson. The article raises questions about capital punishment (the death penalty) and about the U.S. criminal justice system. Read about capital punishment in the eEdition and online. Write two paragraphs, one arguing against the use of the death penalty, and one arguing for it. Then write a third paragraph explaining which side you think has the better argument.

Learning Standard: Describing the political and legal processes created to make decisions, seek consensus and resolve conflicts in a free society.

## 3 Weight Loss

In an interview last week actor Matt Damon said that making his new movie “*The Informant!*” was fun because he had to gain 30 pounds, so he could eat whatever he wanted. After the movie was done filming, he started dieting again and got back into shape. Gaining and losing weight quickly can be unhealthy, especially if someone makes a habit of it. In groups, find an article about weight, nutrition or dieting in the eEdition or online. Research the topic. Then create a presentation about it for the rest of the class. Use visual aids or handouts to help explain the topic.

Learning Standards: Communicating information accurately and effectively and demonstrating expressive abilities by creating oral, written and visual texts that enlighten and engage an audience.

## 4 eEdition Politics Search

Electronic editions allow you to search their content for stories or topics that interest you. Searching can also help you build word skills or track issues in the news. As a class talk about the issues being discussed most by the governor of your state and the state legislature. Make a list of issues you think are getting the most attention. Use the advanced search function to search the eEdition for a day or a week to see how many times each issue comes up in the news. Finish by creating a bar graph to show your results.

Learning Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning; understanding the operations and functions of technology systems; organizing data in charts, graphs and tables.

## 5 Gallery of Writing

Are you a writer? And would you like to share and compare your work with other writers across the nation? The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) wants to see what’s going on in American writing today and is inviting everyone to submit writing to the National Gallery

Learning Standards: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as stories, poetry, personal narratives, editorials, research reports, persuasive essays, resumes or memos.

of Writing, at [www.galleryofwriting.org](http://www.galleryofwriting.org). The submissions can be anything – stories, poems, travel brochures, plays, Web sites, essays or anything else. On October 20, all of the submissions will be posted on the Web site for everyone to see. As a class, look through the eEdition for ideas and come up with a theme for a class writing gallery. Select a “curator” who will be responsible for creating the class gallery and submitting the work. Individually, write a story, poem, essay, article or research report that fits within the theme. Trade your writing with a classmate and edit each other’s work. Submit the final versions to the National Gallery.

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