

# news {..BYTES..}

## for eEditions

grades 9-12

### 1 Signal Words in eEditions

The electronic edition of the newspaper can be a great tool for improving reading comprehension. This not only will help you in school but on state tests, SATs and job applications. As you read, it is important to recognize “signal words” that give clues that something that follows is important. Words like “furthermore,” “besides,” “in addition,” “specifically” and “finally” do this. Other words tell you that you are going to hear an opposite view next – “however,” “yet,” “still,” “instead” and “even though” are examples. Use the search function of your eEdition to see which signal words are used most often in the news and opinion stories in the eEdition. Search for those listed above for a week and chart the results.

Learning Standards: Using prescribed technology tools for data collection and analysis; locating information from electronic resources; using charts and graphs to organize information.

### 2 Travel

The International Air Transport Association said last week that it expects to lose \$11 BILLION this year, due to the high cost of fuel and lack of travelers willing to spend money to fly. If you had the money to fly somewhere, where would you go? Look through the eEdition and find a mention of a city outside the United States that looks interesting. Using online sources such as travel guidebooks, plan out a schedule of activities for five days in that city. Include what sites you would see, where you would eat and how you would get around. Make a budget estimating how much money you would need for each day, and how much you would need for all five days.

Learning Standards: Using reading for multiple purposes; evaluating and analyzing information and pursuing in-depth studies; collecting and exploring data, organizing data into a useful form; applying estimation in increasingly complex situations.

### 3 TV

The first televised debate between two presidential candidates took place on September 26, 1960. It was between Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard Nixon. Kennedy went on to win the election, though Nixon also later became president. How does can a candidate or president reach – and influence – the American public? Look in the eEdition this month and keep track of where President Obama appears and whom he addresses. Pick three speeches, events or appearances. For each, write a few sentences explaining what audience Obama is trying to reach at the event.

Learning Standard: Focusing on meaning and communication while listening, speaking, viewing, reading and writing in personal, social, occupational and civic contexts.

### 4 Touchdown

Quarterback Michael Vick used to play for the Atlanta Falcons, until he was sent to jail for running a brutal dog-fighting ring. After being released, he was signed this summer by the Philadelphia Eagles. Read articles in the eEdition and on the Internet about the situation. Then write a letter to the Eagles explaining whether you think Michael Vick should be allowed to play in the NFL after committing the crime for which he was convicted and imprisoned. In your letter, support your arguments with facts.

Learning Standard: Considering the effects of an individual's actions on other people, how one acts in accordance with the rule of law, and how one acts in a virtuous and ethically responsible way as a member of society; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

### 5 Scary Showerheads

A study published last week suggests that taking a shower might not get you as clean as you'd think. Researchers tested 50 showerheads and found that about 30 percent had high levels of a type of bacteria that can cause lung infections. Bacteria thrive in showerheads, because it's just the type

of wet, warm, dark environment they like. Look in the eEdition and online and find three other examples of products or devices in the U.S. that can directly or indirectly cause a health hazard if not maintained properly. Do research to learn more about how likely it is for someone to get sick from those products or devices. For each, use the information you found to calculate the probability of an average person in America becoming sick from using the product or device.

Learning Standards: Showing how common themes of science, mathematics and technology apply in real-world contexts; conducting probability experiments and simulations to model and solve problems, including compound events.

A Teaching Tool  
For Tomorrow