

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1

Happy New Year

The start of a new year is typically a time when people look ahead. Often they make resolutions for things they want to change and predictions for what will come. Read the eEdition this week to see what's going on in the world. In groups, come up with five predictions for things that you think will happen this year, in science, technology, politics or anything else. Share your predictions with the rest of the class.

Learning Standard: Engaging peers in constructive conversation about matters of public concern by clarifying issues, considering opposing views, applying democratic values, anticipating consequences and working toward making decisions.

2

Energetic

Several companies are coming up with ways to make solar energy systems more affordable so that homeowners don't have to spend tens of thousands of dollars installing them. For example, one of the companies, SolarCity, is offering a "SolarLease" program, which allows people to rent a solar system rather than buy it outright. Read about solar energy or another type of environmentally friendly technology in the eEdition or online. In groups, make a presentation about one technology for the rest of the class.

Learning Standards: Evaluating alternative long range plans for resource use and byproduct disposal in terms of environmental and economic impact; engaging peers in constructive conversations.

3

Literature

Poet T.S. Eliot died on January 4, 1965, at age 76. In addition to being a poet – and winning the Nobel Prize for Literature – Eliot was a literary critic. Write a poem based on something in the eEdition. Then trade your poem with a classmate and edit each other's poems. Trade them back and discuss the suggestions you each made.

Learning Standards: Planning, drafting, revising and editing texts; analyzing and critiquing the texts of others in such areas as purpose, effectiveness, cohesion and creativity.

4

Fiction

Science fiction writer Isaac Asimov was born January 2, 1920. Some of his many novels and short stories have been made into movies, including "I, Robot" and "Bicentennial Man." Follow Asimov's lead and write your own science fiction story based on a location, person, organization or event in the eEdition. It can involve robots, distant planets, time travel or anything else you care to come up with.

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

5

More Signal Words

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 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.

A Teaching Tool
For Tomorrow