

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 Civil Rights

In the 1960s, officials in Hamtramck, Michigan, tore down homes in African American neighborhoods, forcing the residents to move elsewhere. In 1971, a federal judge ruled that the city had violated the residents' civil rights. After almost a decade of trying to figure out a solution, Hamtramck agreed to develop 200 new homes for those who were kicked out. Today, about half of the homes have been built, partially because the city didn't have enough money to fully fund the project. Find a story in the news about a person or group being discriminated against. Write an eEdition editorial about the situation, what should be done or how the situation could be changed.

Learning Standards: Defining and investigating important issues and problems using a variety of resources, including technology, to explore and create texts; investigating through literature and other texts various examples of distortion and stereotypes.

2 Women vs. Men

A study by the Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C., indicates that 20 percent of married women in the United States earn more than their husbands. That figure is five times higher than it was in 1970. The study suggests that one reason for the change is that wives today are as educated as their husbands – or more educated. Look through the eEdition and make a list of women holding jobs that used to be thought of as jobs for men, such as politicians or scientists. Pick one of the women and make a short presentation about her for the rest of the class.

Learning Standard: Exploring and reflecting on universal themes and substantive issues from oral, visual and written texts. Examples include coming of age, rights and responsibilities, group and individual roles, conflict and cooperation, creativity and resourcefulness.

3 Photojournalism

The National Geographic Society was founded in January 1888 by a group of geographers, explorers, mapmakers, teachers and others, all with an interest in scientific and geographical research. Shortly after that, they started National Geographic magazine, which is still published today. The magazine is known for its amazing photographs of locations and people all over the world. Look at the photographs in the eEdition this week. Pick one, and write a short essay explaining how the photograph enhances the article it accompanies.

Learning Standards: Focusing on meaning and communication while listening, speaking, viewing, reading and writing in personal, social, occupational and civic contexts; acquiring and responding to information from visual, written and electronic texts.

4 Spenser

Crime novelist Robert B. Parker died last week at age 77. Parker wrote more than 60 books during his long career, many of them based around a detective named Spenser, who solved crime after crime. Using the eEdition for ideas, pretend you're a novelist and come up with your own idea for a recurring character you'd use in multiple books. Write a biography of your character. Include what type of books he or she would appear in, such as mysteries, science fiction, fantasy stories or children's tales.

Learning Standards: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as personal narratives, persuasive essays, lab reports, and poetry; representing creatively.

5 Adverb Search

The Search and Advanced Search features of the eEdition are a great tool for finding information. They also are a great tool for building vocabulary and word power. Adverbs are colorful words that can make your writing stronger and more effective. Adverbs describe the action of verbs or the

descriptions of adjectives. Many adverbs end in the letters "ly." Use the search features of the eEdition to find adverbs used to make writing more effective or colorful. Remember to leave a space after the "ly" when you search to make sure you find only words where those letters are at the end of the word. Share words as a class. Then write a paragraph describing how having search functions makes the eEdition an effective tool for learning or gathering information.

Learning Standards: Using technology tools to enhance learning and increase creativity; becoming proficient with the use of technology; describing the impact of technology use on individuals at home, at school and in the workplace.

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for Tomorrow