25 Ideas for Using Newspapers in the College Classroom

1. **Class Opener: Current Events Questions**
   Begin each class with a current events question. Read the answer from the paper.

2. **Keeping Current: Article Presentations**
   Students find a course-related article at least 250 words long, and present the article to the class.

3. **Course-Relevant Clipping Project**
   Students find and summarize one article per week relevant to the course content.

4. **Clipping Project: Specific Topics**
   Assign students to find and summarize articles on specific topics such as unemployment, the Federal Reserve or gross domestic product.

5. **Analysis of Issues: One-Page Papers**
   Distribute article(s) with specific questions addressed: What happened? What do you think about the issues involved? What concepts (e.g., economic) are involved?

6. **Current Events Topic of the Week**
   Devote the first or last five minutes of class to discussion of the topic. Grade on participation.

7. **Group News Projects**
   Divide students into groups and assign each group a different current topic to research and present.

8. **Develop Research Skills**
   Students select three articles on same topic, take notes, write thesis, write paragraphs supporting thesis, use citations.

9. **Practice Research Skills**
   Distribute articles for students to use to practice summarizing, paraphrasing, using quotations, avoiding plagiarism and citing sources.

10. **Newspaper-Based Research Paper**
    Use the front page of the newspaper for 10 consecutive days as the basis for research paper.

11. **Compare Perspectives**
    Develop key questions to help student compare points of view on a current topic form a New York Times editorial to those expressed in another source. On international issues, try comparing to a foreign paper.

12. **Use the Crossword Puzzles**
    Teach vocabulary with crossword puzzle competitions. Divide students into groups of three for 15-minutes blocks.

13. **International Relations Research Project**
    Assign a research topic involving relations between the United States and another country in the news. (Use International News Summary and World Briefing).
14. **Analyze Editorials**  
Assign students to read several editorials and write one of their own on a selected topic.

15. **Analyze Letters to the Editor**  
Assign students to read several letters to the editor and write one of their own on a selected topic.

16. **Analyze Movie Reviews**  
Assign students to read several movies reviews and write one of their own.

17. **Analyze Book Reviews**.  
Assign students to read several book reviews and write one of their own.

18. **Compare Print and Electronic Versions**.  
Assign students to write about strengths of each version of The New York Times.

19. **Assign projects using The New York Times Index**  
This source contains abstract of the articles back to 1851, classified under major headings such as country names or “United States Economy”.

20. **Compare Issues Over Time**  
Assign students to read about a current issue and research the developments on the topic over time.

21. **Investigate Career Choices**  
Assign students to use nytimes.com and/or Sunday’s New York Times Job Market to identify several jobs that interest them. Having them outline their strategies for qualifying for the positions.

22. **Use the Obituaries**  
Assign students to read the obituaries in The New York Times and identify the traits (character, education, etc.) that contributed to the achievements of the deceased.

23. **Illustrate the First Amendment**  
Find news stories or photos illustrating freedom of religion, speech, the press or the right to peaceably assemble.

24. **Introductory Assignment: Find Yourself in the Paper**  
Assign student to scan the paper to find an article that in some way relates to their childhood and write a paragraph about it. Students can use their paragraphs to introduce themselves.

25. **Analyze Photographs**  
Students can discuss how photographs are used, what they add to an understanding of the article, what makes them memorable.