

# 02- Finding and Pitching Stories Copied from: Journalism 1, Copied on: 11/15/23

Content Area: **ELA**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **3 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy

### OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

- articles differ in type, style, and purpose
- audience, purpose and sources must be considered when pitching an article
- pitching articles is persuasive in purpose and is a competitive activity

### CONTENT AREA STANDARDS

RI.9-10.1. Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.) and make relevant connections, to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RI.9-10.2. Determine a central idea of a text and analyze how it is developed and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

RI.9-10.3. Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.

RI.9-10.5. Analyze in detail how an author's ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).

RI.9-10.6. Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetorical devices to advance that point of view or purpose.

RI.9-10.8. Describe and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is

valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and reasoning.

SL.9-10.1. Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

A. Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.

B. Collaborate with peers to set rules for discussions (e.g. informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views); develop clear goals and assessment criteria (e.g. student developed rubric) and assign individual roles as needed.

C. Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.

D. Respond thoughtfully to various perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and justify own views. Make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.

SL.9-10.2. Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, qualitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.

SL.9-10.3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any false reasoning or distorted evidence.

### Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

SL.9-10.4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

W.9-10.7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

W.9-10.8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a

standard format for citation (MLA or APA Style Manuals).

LA.W.9-10.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.W.9-10.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
LA.RI.9-10.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.) and make relevant connections, to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RI.9-10.2	Determine a central idea of a text and analyze how it is developed and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RI.9-10.3	Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.
LA.RI.9-10.5	Analyze in detail how an author's ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).
LA.RI.9-10.6	Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetorical devices to advance that point of view or purpose.
LA.RI.9-10.8	Describe and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and reasoning.
LA.SL.9-10.1	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
LA.SL.9-10.2	Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, qualitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.
LA.SL.9-10.3	Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any false reasoning or distorted evidence.
LA.SL.9-10.4	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

### **RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)**

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9.4.12.CI.1: Demonstrate the ability to reflect, analyze, and use creative skills and ideas (e.g., 1.1.12prof.CR3a).

9.4.12.IML.2: Evaluate digital sources for timeliness, accuracy, perspective, credibility of the source, and relevance of information, in media, data, or other resources (e.g., NJSLSA.W8, Social Studies Practice:

## Gathering and Evaluating Sources.

9.4.12.IML.7: Develop an argument to support a claim regarding a current workplace or societal/ethical issue such as climate change (e.g., NJSLSA.W1, 7.1.AL.PRSNT.4).

9.4.12.IML.8: Evaluate media sources for point of view, bias, and motivations (e.g., NJSLSA.R6, 7.1.AL.IPRET.6).

9.4.12.IML.9: Analyze the decisions creators make to reveal explicit and implicit messages within information and media (e.g., 1.5.12acc.C2a, 7.1.IL.IPRET.4).

9.4.12.TL.3: Analyze the effectiveness of the process and quality of collaborative environments.

9.4.12.TL.4: Collaborate in online learning communities or social networks or virtual worlds to analyze and propose a resolution to a real-world problem (e.g., 7.1.AL.IPERS.6).

## **ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES INFORMATION LITERACY COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS**

- J.1.1 Defines the information need based on the story idea or research question
- J.1.2 Identifies a variety of information sources to meet the information need
- J.1.3 Considers financial costs and time required to obtain information

## **STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS**

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### **Declarative Knowledge**

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Students will understand:

- how an article gets from an idea to publication
- how a journalist approaches an article and what is entailed in gathering and presenting information
- different roles of journalist, editor, and publisher
- refine and practice listening and speaking skills with each other and building upon and suggesting ideas for one another's pitches

Students will be able to define:

credibility, credentials, affiliation, impartiality, crowdsourcing, primary sources, secondary sources, beat, Boolean searching, angle, pitch, elevator pitch

## Procedural Knowledge

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Students will be able to:

- accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.) and make relevant connections, to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially
- determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
- determine a central idea of a text and analyze how it is developed and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text
- analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.
- analyze in detail how an author's ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).
- determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetorical devices to advance that point of view or purpose.
- describe and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient
- identify false statements and reasoning
- initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on journalism topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, qualitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.
- evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any false reasoning or distorted evidence
- present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically; the content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
- gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively
- assess the usefulness of sources in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation
- write arguments (effectively pitch an article to an editor [role playing] and effectively suggest ideas to others in a pitch meeting)
- gather relevant information from various credible sources for a pitch
- read various types of articles (features, sports, arts and entertainment, and editorials) and analyze how each are different according to purpose and style, and noting use of sources.
- gather relevant information to evaluate the credibility of various news sources using a ranking worksheet
- present findings, information and supporting evidence for assigned news sources with regard to

whether they are credible

- watch, discuss and evaluate videos of pitch meetings at real publications

## **EVIDENCE OF LEARNING**

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### **Alternate Assessments**

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- Debates
- Mock Trials
- Group Multimedia Presentations
- Individual Oral Presentations
- Teacher/Student Conferences
- Modified Rubrics

### **Formative Assessments**

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- Credibility ranking worksheet
- Group and whole class discussion questions
- Debates
- Do Nows and Exit Slips
- Journal responses to prompts regarding ethical dilemmas
- Group work/projects
- Current Events of the Week quizzes
- No Red Ink assessments for various grammatical skills

### **Summative Assessments**

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- Participation in mock pitch meeting
- Pitch organization sheet
- Unit 2 Test

## **RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)**

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The Record, The Star-Ledger, The New York Times, Colt Chronicle, NJ.com, various award-winning NJ scholastic newspapers (print and online, Journalism: 5W and H by James Glen Stovall, Radical Write by Bobby Hawthorne, guest speaker, laptops, [Google Drive folder for Unit 2](#), NoRedInk.com, Newsela.com, The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect, Kovach and Rosenstiel, Three Rivers Press, New York (2007)

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

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### **Social Studies**

Social relationships among people

Current Events

### **English/Language Arts**

Speech/debate

Google

Media Literacy

## **ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS**

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### **Gifted and Talented:**

- Allow students to pursue independent projects based on their individual interests
- Provide enrichment activities that include more advanced material
- Conduct research and provide a presentation of appropriate topics.
- Provide assessments at a higher level of thinking

### **Students with Disabilities:**

- Pair visual prompts with verbal presentations
- Ask students to restate information, directions, and assignments.
- Repetition and practice
- Model skills/techniques to be mastered.
- Extended time to complete classwork
- Provide a copy of class notes
- Preferential seating to be mutually determined by the student and teacher

**Students at Risk of Failure:**

- Pair visual prompts with verbal presentations
- Ask students to restate information, directions, and assignments.
- Repetition and practice
- Model to be mastered.
- Extended time to complete classwork
- Provide a copy of class notes
- Preferential seating to be mutually determined by the student and teacher