

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Economy, Online Trends Threaten Newspaper Industry, 05/08/2009

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/arts/jan-june09/newspapers_05-08.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How were newspapers in Thomas Jefferson's time different than they are now?

2. Name at least two newspapers that recently shut down.

3. Why is the Boston Globe important? Why is it in trouble?

4. When the president of Sports Illustrated told his employees that "print is dead," what did he mean?

5. Why are newspapers trying to support online journalism?

6. What are some new models for the newspaper according to Iberto Ibarguen, CEO of John S. and James L. Knight Foundation?

7. What deal did Amazon and the Washington Post and the New York Times offer consumers?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. If people get their information first from the TV, next the internet, and then print journalism, what (if anything) do you think is lost?

2. Why do you think people demand free content online? Is it a good idea?

3. After reading this do you think you are more or less likely to go into journalism? Why?

4. Would you purchase the Kindle to read the newspaper? Why or why not?

5. Look 10 years into the future, how do you think we will get our news?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.