

## Writing in Response to the Newspaper

The newspaper can be enjoyable daily reading because its stories cover recent, real events, and many of them may involve your own community. Some newspapers are more recognized and reputable than others. Some have a large distribution and others are strictly local. In your exploration of the newspaper, you are encouraged to browse through the following publications.

- o ***The Cabrillo Voice***
- o ***The Santa Cruz Sentinel***
- o ***The Register Pajaronian***
- o ***The San Jose Mercury***
- o ***Good Times***
- o ***The Santa Cruz Metro***
- o ***The Santa Cruz Comic News***

Mainstream newspapers (such as *The Sentinel*, *The Pajaronian*, and *The Mercury*) are commonly divided into sections: national and international news; local or regional news; sports; entertainment and the arts; classified ads; plus any other categories the editors believe are appropriate for the local community. The front page includes the most important stories from each category. These articles are usually continued in the appropriate sections where more articles related to the cover story can be found. Some newspapers include an index on the front page to help you locate certain articles.

**News Stories** are the front-page articles that report the facts in descending order of importance. The news story will begin with the major details and go on to include less important yet pertinent information.

**Feature Stories**, unlike news stories, are not limited to breaking news or current events, but rather, focus on topics of local or human interest. Common subjects for feature stories are: profiles of actors or other celebrities, social issues, investigations into local happenings, scandals, and opinion pieces. Unlike news stories, which are presented as factual, feature stories are more likely to contain obvious biases or preferences on the part of the writer.

**Editorials** express opinions about current local, national or international news stories. They are brief position pieces in which the writer states his or her position (point of view) on a topic.

### **Assignment**

Choose a story, article, or letter from a local newspaper and write an essay in which you state your own opinion about the topic being discussed. You may choose to agree or disagree with the writer's opinion, or you may want to examine an aspect of the issue that the article does not consider. Make this essay persuasive; that is, try to convince your reader to adopt your point of view. Don't forget to support your position with facts and details.

**Be sure to do adequate brainstorming and drafting. Your finished essay should be 3 – 4 pages, typed, double-spaced.**