

Journalism:

School Newspaper Assignment

Description:

A set of student newspaper assignments on the subject of allergies.

- These can be assigned to student journalists to be completed and published in the school newspaper to coincide with an Allergy Awareness Day scheduled for the school. If the school does not have a newspaper, students in any English class can be assigned to make a dummy newsletter that can be photocopied.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

1. Do simple library research on allergies, what causes them, and what to avoid.
2. Conduct a brief interview to obtain information.
3. Write up research information in a journalistic format to interest other students.

Teacher Preparation:

1. Make copies of the newspaper assignments below.
2. Assign stories to student journalists far enough in advance so stories can appear before the local Allergy Awareness Day.
3. Oversee writing and editing of the stories.

Activity:

- **Assignment 1:** Case Study Medical Interview. Have a student interview a healthcare professional, school nurse, nurse, or doctor who has agreed to cooperate with the Allergy Awareness Project. The subject should be a case study (not using real names) in which a patient was helped dramatically by allergy awareness.
- **Assignment 2:** Case Study General Interview. Have a student interview someone with allergies who has agreed to cooperate with the Allergy Awareness Project. The subject should give his or her real-life experience with allergies.
- **Assignment 3:** What Is An Allergy? Have a student do the basic research necessary to answer this question in a simple and entertaining way.
- **Assignment 4:** When is Allergy Season? Have a student do the basic research necessary to answering this question in a simple and entertaining way.
- **Assignment 5:** What Should I Avoid at Home? Have a student do the basic research necessary to answering this question in a simple and entertaining way.
- **Assignment 6:** What Should I Avoid Away from Home? Have a student do the basic research necessary to answering this question in a simple and entertaining way.
- **Other Possibilities:** Cartoons, editorials, features on similar themes.