

Literacy-Focused Content Ideas for Student-Led Newspapers

1. Cartoons with the aim of encouraging reading or writing (cartoon design contest – winning entry submitted to local newspaper)
2. Raps with the aim of encouraging reading or writing (rap writing contest – winning entry performed in cafeteria or at assembly)
3. Students' book reviews – variety of genres
4. Students' favorite books – photos of students with their book and why it's their favorite
5. Teachers'/coaches'/principal's favorite books – photos of them with book and why it's their favorite
6. Invitation by students to a library open house – “Why I’m Going” (this would necessitate the library hosting an open house with refreshments and displays of featured books)
7. As part of library open house, hold a mystery check-out day. Students check books out of the library that are wrapped in paper and then unwrap them to see their selection. This encourages students to try new authors and genres.
8. Panel Q & A on reading and writing skills as lifelong need (one or two students, coaches and teachers)
9. Short stories, essays and poetry submitted by students and then assembled as special literary insert to newspaper
10. Editorials by students on “Why I Read” and “Why I Write”
11. Literacy-themed crossword puzzle
12. Create and promote a Twitter hashtag to enable students and teachers to write and share brief (140 characters or less) book reviews
13. Selfies submitted by students to convey themes of reading, writing, speaking or listening

14. Spotlight on students with their photos and quotes using theme, “In My Dreams” – link to message about reading: “Read—and make your dreams come true” or “Read—and achieve your dreams.”
- If you could be a famous person in history, whom would you be? Why?
 - On what topic would you like to be an expert? Why?
 - If you could travel in time, where and when would you choose? Why?
 - If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you choose? Why?