

ReadBox Project

-Magazines-



A magazine is a selection of (usually non-fiction) articles covering a wide range of topics of interest. Magazines are a valuable source of authentic materials and can be very motivational for students. So why not use them during our ReadBox project ? We would like to stimulate interest in British or American culture. Grab your chance to get to grips with handling a whole publication in English. Skim through the various English and American magazines and select the magazine article which appeals to you most. Magazines are periodicals along with newspaper; this means that they are published on a regular basis. They may be published weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, bi-monthly or several times/ once a year. Most commonly, magazines are published weekly or monthly.

What is an issue?

An issue is a single, regular publication of for example a magazine or newspaper. A magazine that publishes monthly will have twelve issues in a year. News magazines, like for example Newsweek, publish weekly and will have 52 issues in a year. Magazines will use specific dates on their issues, such as November 9, 2015, or November 2015.

Use of Everyday Language

In general, magazine articles are typically written with the average reader in mind, so the article is fairly brief in length the used language is easy to read and simple to understand, depending on the target audience.

Subject Focus

Magazines can cover a wide variety of interests or might focus on a particular field of interest. Articles can address any topic that the author decides to explore and can reflect opinion, interviews, news, research, reviews etc. It can provide information, offer advice or suggestions. Author names may or may not be mentioned. Many magazine articles are written by the magazine editors or staff writers and may not attribute responsibility to individual authors.

Overall appearance

Magazines are published in full-colour on glossy or semi-glossy paper, with a heavier, thicker paper as the cover. They are usually bound with either glue or staples. Magazine covers look appealing; They often provide highlights of the articles that will draw the reader's attention and make the reader want to buy the magazine.

Use of Illustrations and Photographs

Articles published in magazines are frequently illustrated with drawings or photographs, often in full colour; that makes them very appealing to the audience.

What is an article ?

An article is a piece of writing, usually intended for publication in, for example, a newspaper or magazine. It is much shorter than a book, although an article can be as short as a paragraph and as long as several pages. It is written for a large, general audience, so it is essential to both grab and retain the readers' attention; therefore it should be written in an interesting or entertaining way. An article can be formal or informal, depending on the target audience. An article may include amusing stories, reported speech and descriptions of an experience, event, person or place.

Advertisements

Magazines usually include a lot of product advertisements as a source of revenue. Some ads might be full page.

Examples of magazines include Time, Newsweek, Rolling Stone, History, Sweet Seventeen, Elle, GQ, and Travel.



Before getting started

Remember that your magazine article needs to be approved by your teacher before you can use it for your ReadBox project, so please check beforehand that the article doesn't have inappropriate language or inappropriate content. If you are not certain, ask your teacher. Also make sure that your that the language level is suitable for you.

Procedure

- 1 First of all you have to find your magazine article (400-700 words). (see ReadBox Introduction for hyperlinks) or go through the ReadBox box that is located in the classroom.
- 2 Skim through the magazines and select a magazine article which appeals to you most i.e. Choose an article of your interest. Log onto your Edmodo ReadBox folder, make a new folder and name it: ReadBox Magazine. Upload both the magazine article scan onto your Edmodo ReadBox folder. If you cannot upload it, make sure that you insert a hyperlink. Also put a copy into your personal portfolio at home. This way the article is easily accessible when you need it.
- 3 Have a look at the title, subtitle, pictures and write down what you already know about the subject.
- 4 The next step is to read the magazine article silently. Go for the overall meaning of the text, you do not have to understand every word.
- 5 After reading the magazine article for the first time, fill in the title of the magazine article. Is there a subtitle ? Do not forget to write down the author, source, date of publication.

- 6 Read the magazine article a second time (and a third time if necessary). Now you are going to read for detail and specific information. Revise your earlier thoughts. Cross off any information that was incorrectly 'activated' at the beginning (step 3) While reading the magazine article, also make a vocabulary list of the most important words and take notes on any information critical for your understanding of the magazine article. (Use your Vocabulary Notebook/ Notes Appendix)
- 7 Answer the questions on the next pages and then write down your reflections and interpretations about the magazine article.
- 8 Save your file as: First Name Family Name Magazine onto your Edmodo ReadBox folder.

READBOX

Magazine article

Name student & Class

Title of the magazine article

Author's name

Source

Date of publication

1 In what kind of magazine did you find your article ? Why did you choose this magazine ?

2 What is the topic of your article ?

3 Who are the intended readers (a specific group such as teenagers/ students/ adults) ?

7 What can you say about the use of language and the level of formality? (formal/ semi-formal/ informal - depending on your intended audience). Give four examples of this use of language.

8 Read the article (again) and explain *who, what, where, when, how* and *why*. Give a summary of the magazine article.

Who ?

What ?

Where ?

How ?

Summary

Why ?

9 Why did this magazine article appeal to you ? What types of words are used to make you want to read this article ? Explain your answer.

Follow-up activity

Now that you have uncovered the layers of meaning that lead to comprehension of the newspaper article, it is time for your follow-up activity.

You can choose from the following activities:

- Create a vlog (Vlog /iMovie)
- Make a presentation & present it in class. (Pecha Kucha)
- Create a flyer (Canva / Pages) to support your magazine article.

Please fill in the details below:

I am aware that this project is due no later than: _____.

I will upload my digital Magazine assignment to my personal Edmodo ReadBox folder no later than _____ and I will save a copy in my personal portfolio as well.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____