A Source of Inspiration

- Student Activity: Take Inventory
- Word Study: What a Collection!
- Student Activity: Pitch a Story Idea
- Post Reprint: Departures | August 24, 2014
- Post Reprint: A Year in America | July 26, 2015
The Washington Post Magazine has asked readers to tell about life in haiku and to send their reactions to content. Local people have been profiled in “Just Asking” and places have been introduced in “Street Smart.”

Readers have revealed a time they were scared, proud of themselves, embarrassed and surprised. The standing column topics may vary through the years, but they remain a constant element of the Sunday Magazine.

The Washington Post Magazine asked readers to tell about what they loved in Washington. As Magazine Editor Lynn Medford wrote, “Favorites lists have been around as long as humans have had enough things to pick favorites.” The lists included Sights, Drink, Outdoors and Music. These were categorized further. For example, Eats included: “Place to get a great meal under $25,” “New restaurant,” “Place to get a decadent burger,” “Pizza place” and “Place to get food at 2 a.m.”

The standing columns, just-for-fun reader pieces and the longer features all provide a place to find entertainment, to begin discussion, to learn about human nature — and gain inspiration for students to create columns, reader involvement and features.
Take Inventory

➊ The weekly Washington Post Magazine (Magazine) requires a staff with diverse skills. Who holds each of these jobs?
   A. Advertising General Manager
   B. Art Director
   C. Editorial Editor
   D. Photo Editor
   E. Production Coordinator

➋ You have friends who are interested in the following. What columns would you recommend they read?
   A. Finding something to do this week
   B. A new recipe
   C. Smart phone use
   D. Humor
   E. Local neighborhoods

➌ The Magazine contains features, human-interest stories. Select one from the Magazine to read. Provide the following information.
   A. Title
   B. Author
   C. Illustrator/Photographer
   D. Information about the author
   E. A summary of the story

➍ Layout, design and font choices reflect the mood, time period or theme of a story as well as the character of the Magazine. Select a font, design device and/or layout that you find visually appealing. Explain why it appeals to you.

➎ Read and summarize one of the feature stories. In what ways do the photographs or illustrations enhance the text?
What a Collection!

When you visit a bookstore, you are likely to see a wall lined with magazines. Fashion, health, sports, interior decorating, cars, technology and pet care are among the interests catered to between the covers. If you browse through them, you will find a broad range of topics, diverse visual trends and advertisements.

Today’s use is closely related to the etymology of “magazine.” It originated in the late 16th century from the French *magasin* and the Italian *magazzino*, which came from the Arabic words *makzin* and *makzan*, meaning “storehouse.” It is based in the verb *kazana*, meaning “store up.”

The first magazines were physical storehouses, often for ammunition and provisions for war. In the late 16th century, guns were devised with magazines, holders of shells for feeding into a firearm’s chamber. John Brown hoped to seize the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, a magazine for military supplies and ammunition.

The use of “magazine” to identify a receptacle for storing and feeding film into a camera and CDs to a compact disc player is slowly becoming history as technology changes.

The use of “magazine” for a periodical publication providing a range of stories and articles was *The Gentleman’s Magazine*; or, *Monthly Intelligencer*, launched in 1731.

*Harper’s Magazine*, the oldest general-interest monthly in America, describes itself as exploring “the issues that drive our national conversation, through long-form narrative journalism and essays, and such celebrated features as the iconic Harper’s Index.” In June 1850, Harper & Brothers, a book-publishing business, debuted its magazine, reprinting mainly the work of English writers.

The magazine gained in popularity and published the work of American artists and writers — among them Horatio Alger, Stephen A. Douglas, Theodore Dreiser, Horace Greeley, William Dean Howells, Henry James, Jack London, John Muir, Frederic Remington and Mark Twain. Issues included emerging technology, the Civil War and women’s rights. Work by political cartoonist Thomas Nast and illustrators Winslow Homer, Granville Perkins and the Waud brothers were featured as well as early photographs.
Peoples’ curiosity and desire to know about many topics have not waivered. Whether you select People, ESPN The Magazine, Time, Wired or National Geographic, you are reading some of the magazines with highest monthly audiences. We have print, web and mobile news and feature magazines; special interest regularly scheduled and commemorative magazines; print or digital magazines with interviews, commentary, entertainment and visual content in varied formats.

From the oldest to the most recent entry into the magazine publishing world, you are likely to find a magazine that appeals to you. Name three magazines that you have read.

1. 
2. 
3. 

Why does each of them appeal to you? Design, graphics, special features, and/or articles?

Draw the cover of the magazine you like best.
Pitch a Story Idea

When making a pitch, you must be concrete, concise and prepared to answer questions. You need to know your readers. What interests them? What do they want to know? What should they know? Read the examples of unacceptable, ambiguous pitches. Analyze the pitches for what makes them ineffective. Select one and revise it to improve the pitch.

Ambiguous Pitches

1. Let’s go to Jordan and do stories. Anything we find will be interesting. We’ll see how it goes when we get there. [Unplanned, too general, not feasible given the location and potential safety issues. Waste of time.]

2. Let’s go to Missouri and cover how the police department is responding to local citizens. [Still too general. What does this have to do with us?]

3. I want to do a piece on Instagram and what it means to teenagers to have an account. [So what? Lots of people have one.]

4. I want to tell how the football team is preparing for another big game. [Again – the “So What?” factor is missing. Is there anything unusual about this? I doubt it.]

5. Immigration is in the news. Let’s do something on what it is like to cross the border illegally. [Done a lot. Why now? What is the news value? Why should our readers care? How would you do it differently?]

Editors can be tough to persuade and their criticism can feel harsh. [In brackets, above, you see what they are thinking.] If you are well prepared when you pitch, you can lessen the strain of presenting an idea only to watch it be shot down, especially in front of your peers. Ouch.

Revision of one of the pitches
Pitch a Story Idea continued

Concrete Pitches:
What makes these pitches effective and likely to gain an assignment?

1. I want to go to Toronto. Canada’s police are among the most respected in the world. The training they receive is one reason. I’ve already talked to a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman. He has agreed to an interview and to show the training of Mounties. During training they march at 6 a.m., jog between classes, run four miles — all before noon. I’ll compare it to our local training of police officers, which ideas are working and, if not, why not.

2. Our local high school football team has not won a game in four weeks; the coach is implementing a new strategy — a pre-game workout that limbers the players and places them on the field earlier than the normal practice time. The players are discouraged. The coach says he got his idea from another high school coach in the state who has found that this more arduous method works. We’ll go to our local high school over a three-week period to see what the players think about the new strategy before and after the next three games, how it has worked for them and why.

3. The patrols along the Mexican border with Arizona have been increased with an abundance of private citizens who are joining with the border patrol to stop immigrants from crossing the desert. I’ll follow one group in training for its first mission and will go on patrol next Tuesday, the night before the governor is scheduled to make a speech on the impact of immigration on the state. I will focus on one trainee and observe him as he implements what he has learned. I’ll also talk to the local citizens group about their reaction to having private citizens performing these duties. Has the fear of violence increased in the border towns near the desert? I suggest we try to answer this question by also talking to residents in a small town near where this patrol will be on duty overnight.

4. Many school principals are practicing prior review of student newspapers and online news. The local news peg and case study will be Wilson High School in D.C. where new principal Kimberly Martin told the print and online staffs of The Beacon that she was instituting prior review. Interviews with Martin, student media editors and advisers, Chancellor Henderson and the director of the Student Law Press Center will be conducted. A timeline and research on D.C. code applying to student media will be included as well as a summary of Supreme Court cases regarding student press and speech rights. This could be the first of a three-part series in which student press rights and practice in Virginia and Maryland are also covered.
There are 5,900 stories like this

Immigrant children on the hard road to Washington by David Montgomery
DEPARTURES

These children have crossed the U.S. border, but their journeys are far from over.

STORY BY DAVID MONTGOMERY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BONNIE JO MOUNT

You ask a boy of 10 whether he carried a favorite toy with him, a stuffed animal, something to keep him company on the trip. He stares at you blankly. His mother explains: Arriving without only the clothes on your back is not just a phrase. Nearly 63,000 unaccompanied children have been detained at the Mexican border this year. Some 5,898 from Central America have been reunited with parents or guardians in the District, Maryland and Virginia, according to the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The stories behind the statistics are as different as the faces of the children. Once reunited, many of the families seek help from groups such as CASA of Maryland, which provides legal advice and assistance integrating. All the children will have dates in court, when immigration judges will decide whether they qualify as refugees. Both the White House and legal advocates have predicted that most may be deported.
BRANDON TERRIQUEZ, 15
Pictured on previous pages

He called his mother in Springfield and asked her to send $50. He didn’t tell her that the money would fund his odyssey from Guatemala. In April, he and five companions caught a bus.

Saying goodbye to his grandparents broke Brandon’s heart. They had been raising him since his father and mother left for the United States 11 and eight years ago, respectively. He knew he might never see them again.

Homeickness set in as soon as the bus took off. “The first day was very bad,” he says. In northern Guatemala, the travelers got off the bus and walked for hours overnight into Mexico. They followed railroad tracks, diving into brush when they saw soldiers, dodging crocodiles in culverts. The soles of Brandon’s sneakers disintegrated. He developed huge blisters. He wrapped his feet in towels and kept walking.

Brandon stayed with the group long enough to cross the Rio Grande on an inflatable raft. U.S. Border Patrol officers swarmed the area. He spent a few sleepless nights in one of the infamous “refrigerators” — detention rooms that felt frigid to the children crammed inside. Then it was two weeks at a shelter in New York. And, finally, a little more than a month after he set out, his parents stood waiting for him at the airport.

He met his sister, 6, and brother, 20 months, for the first time.

His face still lights up talking about Guatemala. “What I liked was to go horseback riding. Herding the cattle, calling the cattle. The cattle know you. You talk to them, and they understand. They see you, and they come running.”

DANIEL, 6

Daniel’s mother, Reyna, arrived in Langley Park from El Salvador in January, her husband several months before that. They figured Daniel could stay with one of his grandfathers. The plan had always been to summon Daniel well before he turned 12, but the boy missed his parents too terribly. After wading across the Rio Grande into Texas a couple of months ago, with his cousins ages 9 and 17, Daniel is about to enter first grade.

“Twelve is when the gang obligate children to join, to live with them,” Reyna says. “They make them extort money, sell drugs. That is the task of the children. They don’t go to school after that.” Their house in El Salvador was in a zone controlled by one gang. To cross into another zone to go to work or go shopping, they had to pay a weekly sum. More than once, they had seen gangsters take a neighbor’s house and give the family hours to get out, or else. “People lose their house; people even lose their children,” Reyna says. “The gang take the money somewhere else, and you don’t know where they are. Whether they are buried, dead, alive, no one knows.”

And you can’t complain, because even the police are involved. You’re better off keeping quiet. You swallow everything, because if you complain they aren’t going to murder just me, but the entire family.”

Despite being reunited, Daniel is not feeling good. Two nights before, he was rushed to the hospital with breathing problems. Doctors said he had high cholesterol, an inflamed liver and tonsillitis. Now, sitting beside his mother in a library as she recounts the troubles the family left behind, he turns the pages of a book of dinosaurs and says nothing.

TANIA LATIN, 13

Before she left Guatemala, Tania received a gift from the woman taking care of her: a pendant depicting the “Black Christ” on one side and the Virgin of Guadalupe on the other. “The Virgin will keep you safe on the journey,” the woman promised. Tania was traveling 2,000 miles with her 3-year-old sister, Erica, and adults she scarcely knew. She had not seen her father in nine years, nor her mother in three. The parents were living, separately, in the Washington area.

A “coyote” put the girls in the care of a woman traveling with the group. One day, Mexican law enforcement officers suddenly boarded a bus they were on. They seized the adults but ignored the children. Tania was given a story to tell, claiming to be someone else, but U.S. border guards saw through it. They handcuffed her. After nearly four months in a shelter in the Phoenix area, Tania was sent to Washington. She lives with her father and her stepmother, tenant activist and Mount Pleasant advisory neighborhood commissioner Yasmin Romero-Latin. Erica crossed later and is in the care of another family.

“Tania watches a lot of television, and paints. In her art, she keeps returning to the Virgin of Guadalupe. One of her paintings hangs in the dining area, with Tania’s name and that of her father inscribed on either side of the holy woman who kept young travelers safe on their journey.”
After their father was found dead in the road from a blow to his head, his pockets emptied of what little cash they contained, their mother, Hortencia, made her way from Guatemala to the Washington area in 2009. Their grandfather was supposed to take care of the brothers.

Distraught over reports she was getting, Hortencia returned for her children. They were picked up almost immediately by the U.S. Border Patrol near McAllen, Texas. They proceeded to Langley Park, where they live with Hortencia’s sister.

Because Abner and Humberto traveled with their mother, their legal situation is different from that of unaccompanied youngsters. Hortencia is unusual in that she went back for her kids, rather than sending for them.

Abner and Humberto race around the playground outside CASA’s headquarters. When they pause from ping-ponging over the climbing equipment, Humberto reaches out to hold Abner’s hand.

In Spanish, Abner pronounces life here “happy” and life in Guatemala “sad.” “I am a little mischievous. I hope I behave well” in the United States.

When Mynor was 7, the year his mother died, his father joined the exodus from Guatemala, and the boy lived with his grandmother. U.S. Border Patrol agents stopped him and sent him to a holding center near Boston.

Mynor saw his older friends graduating from high school with degrees “that weren’t good for anything. There was no work.” They joined the tattered legion driving three-wheeled taxis, scrapping for the scarce paying customers. Or they drifted into delinquency.

Last summer, at 17, Mynor set out in his father’s footsteps. “When I first came, I didn’t like it,” he says, because he felt trapped inside his father’s home in Baltimore. The city seemed threatening, with all the traffic and streetlife.

Eventually, he realized he liked the bustle. He rides his bike to the Inner Harbor, where he found a summer job as a busboy.

“You work, you have your money, you can buy things when you want something.”

He does miss his 12-year-old sister and other relatives and friends back home, but he knows he has already made a mental shift. Should the courts say he doesn’t belong in this country, he doesn’t exactly belong in Guatemala, either. “I see both countries. I see myself in both countries.”
They are healthier now. More sure of themselves, less haunted. They have put on weight — in some cases too much. Homesickness sneaks up with less frequency, but that longing for places they risked everything to escape is still there.

Nearly a year after we profiled six child migrants reunited with parents already living in the Washington area, all are getting on with their American lives, despite predictions by legal advocates and White House officials that their ultimate destiny would be deportation. Several won’t appear before immigration court judges for another year.

Meanwhile, the flow of unaccompanied children making the dangerous journey from, in most cases, Central America has slowed dramatically. In the first eight months of this fiscal year, 1,755 have joined family in the District, Maryland and Virginia, compared with 8,146 for all of the previous year, according to the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

During this extended legal limbo, the families have been helped by advocacy groups such as CASA of Maryland, and the children have profited from superior education and healthcare systems. Ask them and they will say, “I’m happy.” Or maybe, “Estoy feliz,” because their English remains a work in progress.

Brandon Terriquez, 16, snuggles brother Chally, 2, at home in Springfield.

Brandon reached his parents’ apartment in Springfield, Va., the day after Mother’s Day last year, eight years after he last saw his mother. This year for Mother’s Day Brandon presented Trinidad Ramirez with a bouquet of artificial flowers that still enjoys a prominent place in the living room.

“It hurt to leave him [with grandparents] when he was 7 years old. And then to know he came looking for me!” says Ramirez, who hadn’t realized Brandon was coming until he was on his way. “He didn’t know me. He knew I was his mother, but [for years] he never lived with me. He thought I only loved him as a child. He was feeling abandoned. It pained me. But he has recovered a lot.”

Brandon dotes on his American-born sister Aury, 7, and does push-ups with his American-born brother Chally, 2, riding his back. Sometimes Ramirez will come home and find Brandon vacuuming the living room.

Brandon misses elements of his old rural life: riding horses, calling the cattle for their meals, trapping animals for food. These days he posts videos on Facebook of himself singing. He dedicated a traditional song from back home to his grandfather.

Brandon has also started fishing at a nearby pond, the way he fished a river near where he grew up. His simple line and hook with worms dug from the suburban earth are all he needs, while neighbors with their fancy poles and lures and store-bought bait hardly catch anything.

“I just throw in the line,” he says, laughing, “and I get a big fish. It surprised them.”

If he gets deported, he’ll lose his new home and family, yet Guatemala tugs at his heart.

“God has a destiny for everyone,” he says. “You just don’t know what it is.”
After wading across the Rio Grande with a pair of older cousins who were still children themselves, and finally reaching his mother and father in Langley Park, Md., Daniel was a silent boy with a long list of medical problems. Now he scampers around a playground, giggling, making faces, playing hide-and-seek. He chatters in Spanish and in his rapidly developing English, which he demonstrates by sitting down with a book, “Just Me and My Puppy.”

“This is easy,” Reyna says. “He doesn’t breathe like he’s drowning. He does his homework himself. He sits down to read his books. I feel the happiest that I could be.”

Daniel, who just finished first grade, looks up. “This is easy.”

Reyna, his mother, can hardly believe the transformation. “In El Salvador, he’d be dead by now,” she says. “He had about four months to live.”

Daniel’s health would have failed, she is convinced. Regular checkups in El Salvador revealed nothing, she says, but in Maryland, doctors diagnosed liver, kidney, blood pressure and cholesterol problems. Daniel also had fits of difficult breathing and needed his tonsils removed. “He sleeps peacefully,” Reyna says. “I don’t think he’s in any pain.”

Daniel’s last appearance in court was set to graduate next month from Baltimore City College. He’s on his fourth job, working at a hotel, since arriving. He needs the money to pay off the $2,500 in loans that financed his trek. And he’s saving for college at what he hopes is his journey’s end.

TANIA LATIN, 13

The bond strikes up “Pomp and Circumstance” as the students file into the auditorium in their caps and gowns. The eighth-grade promotion ceremony at Lincoln Multicultural Middle School in the District’s Columbia Heights neighborhood draws a standing-room-only crowd of proud parents. Most of the 105 rising-ninth-graders fill long rows at the front of the audience, but about a dozen, including Tania, sit on the stage. These are the students with the top grade-point averages. For the speeches, class officers, the valedictorian and salutatorian, select the star performers.

Tania’s shy smile as she steps forward amid the whoops and cheers to accept her certificate betrays nothing of the 2,000-mile journey from Guatemala she undertook with her 9-year-old sister nearly a year before.

Marcos Latin, a cook, and her stepmother, Yasmin Romero-Latin, a nursing student and tenant activist, clench a bouquet of carnations for her. At the simple reception afterward in the cafetria, a teacher says, “She’s awesome. When she arrived she had difficulty writing. ... She never missed a single assignment. She turned in her work before it was due.”

Tania will start at Bell Multicultural High School in late August. Then, in October she will have her third appearance in court. The judge could make his final decision then. “It would be hard to be deported because here have my parents and my sister,” Tania says, holding a tablet she uses to take pictures of her friends. “The future is brighter here.”

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