

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

## More Than One Way to Lede

- Allusion
  - Anecdote
- Atmosphere
  - Comparison/Contrast
- Description
  - Example
- Historic perspective/context
  - Humor
- List
  - Part of speech (adjective, adverb, gerund, pronoun, preposition)
- Punch
  - Question
- Quotation
  - Suspended interest

- Teachers Notes: To Begin With — Ledes
- Post Reprint: KidsPost Ledes
- Student Activity: Pull Readers Into the Article with a Lede
- Student Activity: From the Beginning
- Student Guidelines: When Reading a Feature Article

## An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

*Anecdotes, Comparison, Contrast, Summary*

The *lede* is the first sentence, paragraph or short portion at the beginning of a journalistic piece. According to Merriam-Webster: “Although evidence dates the spelling to the late 1970s, we didn’t enter *lede* in our dictionaries until 2008. For much of that time, it was mostly kept under wraps as in-house newsroom jargon.

“Spelling the word as *lede* helped copyeditors, typesetters, and others in the business distinguish it from its homograph *lead*, which also happened to refer to the thin strip of metal separating lines of type (as in a Linotype machine).”

*Description, Examples, Explanation, Narrative*

Merriam-Webster continues: As William Safire wrote in 1990, “[w]ouldn’t it be easier if the noun for the metal were spelled the way it sounded (*led*, to rhyme with dead) and the noun for the beginning of a newspaper story were spelled the way it is pronounced (*lede*, or *leed*, to rhyme with deed)?”

*History, Humor, Punch, Questions, Quotation*

The *lede* can be straight news — 5Ws and H. The *lede* may utilize a rhetorical technique to grab the reader’s attention. These listed approaches are only some of the possible approaches to writing *ledes* for news, feature and opinion pieces.

---



---



---

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program



## To Begin With — Ledes

Ledes are the opening line, paragraph or first paragraphs of a news article, editorial or feature. In the traditional news lede, the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY and HOW of the story are usually provided. Other ledes are delayed ledes, readers must wait for the 5 Ws and H. In delayed ledes readers get background, setting or perspective to understand the main news or idea. There are many approaches to composing a delayed lede.

This variety of ledes includes:

Allusion	List
Anecdote	Part of speech (adjective, adverb, gerund, pronoun, preposition)
Atmosphere	Punch
Comparison/Contrast	Question
Description	Quotation
Example	Suspended interest
Historic perspective/context	Time
Humor	

### Expand the Lead Study

In this resource guide we provide six ledes from the pages of KidsPost. See KidsPost Ledes. KidsPost stories are written with six- to 13-year-olds in mind. Teachers may discuss the information they get from the headline and lede. Also what the photograph adds to their understanding of content. Teachers may also use Pull Readers Into the Article with a Lede.

In addition, nine different ledes are provided from different sections of *The Post*. They illustrate some of the varied ledes. Note that almost all of these articles begin with a dateline. What purpose does a dateline serve?

Teachers may wish to expand the activity by reading the entire article. Students can discuss the entire content. How did the lede prepare them for reading and comprehending the whole article? When a delayed lede has been used, teachers might ask students to write a traditional news lede. When a delayed lede has been used, teachers might ask students to experiment with writing one of the other types of ledes. Which is the better approach to draw readers into the article? To set up the content? To help with comprehension of an unfamiliar setting or a complicated story?

To help teachers to expand the activity, in the next pages teachers will find the information needed to use the e-Replica format or to find the article online.

## An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

Teachers Notes | *continued*

## Articles From KidsPost

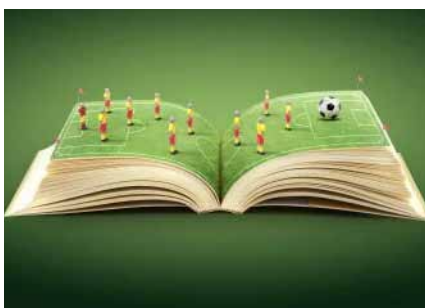


“Bench players shine as stars fall to injuries”  
August 17, 2017, C8



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/nationals-bench-players-get-the-team-through-tough-times/2017/08/16/68953568-7baf-11e7-a669-b400c5c7e1cc\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.4a1da7f62e82](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/nationals-bench-players-get-the-team-through-tough-times/2017/08/16/68953568-7baf-11e7-a669-b400c5c7e1cc_story.html?utm_term=.4a1da7f62e82)

This article begins and ends with a listing of names, but for very different purposes. Discuss when Bowen makes the transition.



“Wimps do it. Dorks do it. You can do it, too”  
August 31, 2017, C8



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/journal-writing-about-your-sport-can-help-you-laugh-and-learn/2017/08/30/232de3f8-80ff-11e7-b359-15a3617c767b\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.d3c4eaf90c50](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/journal-writing-about-your-sport-can-help-you-laugh-and-learn/2017/08/30/232de3f8-80ff-11e7-b359-15a3617c767b_story.html?utm_term=.d3c4eaf90c50)

This article begins with a summary lede of what happens in September and a suggestion. Notice the how-to steps with examples in the body. Are the last two examples most persuasive?



“Young golfer is becoming a major force”  
August 10, 2017, C8



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/jordan-spieth-is-a-terrific-young-golfer-but-can-he-catch-the-tiger/2017/08/09/4593d0e6-7859-11e7-8f39-eeb7d3a2d304\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.2693d4b73ce2](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/jordan-spieth-is-a-terrific-young-golfer-but-can-he-catch-the-tiger/2017/08/09/4593d0e6-7859-11e7-8f39-eeb7d3a2d304_story.html?utm_term=.2693d4b73ce2)

This article begins with a question which extends into a comparison and contrast of Jordan Spieth to Tiger Woods and other major players. Students could research to see how Spieth did in the PGA Championship — and write a lede.

## An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

**Teachers Notes** | *continued*

“Patriotism, politics play a role in pledge’s past”  
September 5, 2017, C8



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/short-pledge-has-a-long-story/2017/09/01/97ed9f74-8dbd-11e7-8df5-c2e5cf46c1e2\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.c2bff851c05b](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/short-pledge-has-a-long-story/2017/09/01/97ed9f74-8dbd-11e7-8df5-c2e5cf46c1e2_story.html?utm_term=.c2bff851c05b)

The lede is a quotation. The article gives its history. In what ways does quoting the pledge inform readers?



“Family visits to Cuba inspired girl to become a poet”  
September 6, 2017, C10



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/family-visits-to-cuba-inspired-girl-to-become-a-poet/2017/09/05/891ab21e-8c1b-11e7-8df5-c2e5cf46c1e2\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.df22ed7cba13](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/family-visits-to-cuba-inspired-girl-to-become-a-poet/2017/09/05/891ab21e-8c1b-11e7-8df5-c2e5cf46c1e2_story.html?utm_term=.df22ed7cba13)

This lede is a time lede that introduces Margarita Engle in her youth. This article is composed in English and Spanish. Go online to read in both languages.



“At the state fair, it’s showtime for two kids”  
August 27, 2017, C8



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/at-the-state-fair-some-kids-skip-the-rides-for-the-animal-attractions/2017/08/28/44298fa4-80fe-11e7-b359-15a3617c767b\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.909f21c5155d](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/at-the-state-fair-some-kids-skip-the-rides-for-the-animal-attractions/2017/08/28/44298fa4-80fe-11e7-b359-15a3617c767b_story.html?utm_term=.909f21c5155d)

This description lede takes us to the Montgomery County Fairgrounds.

## An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

Teachers Notes | *continued*

## Articles From The Washington Post — From the Beginning



“From death row to adoption: Saving animals by car, van, bus and even phone”  
May 14, 2017, A1



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/nationals-bench-players-get-the-team-through-tough-times/2017/08/16/68953568-7baf-11e7-a669-b400c5c7e1cc\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.4a1da7f62e82](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/nationals-bench-players-get-the-team-through-tough-times/2017/08/16/68953568-7baf-11e7-a669-b400c5c7e1cc_story.html?utm_term=.4a1da7f62e82)



“Holding out hope for a teen’s horse”  
September 4, 2017, A6



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/what-happened-to-bella-a-family-waits-to-learn-a-horses-fate-in-harvey-flooding/2017/09/03/c9d5d038-8ffc-11e7-84c0-02cc069f2c37\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.8e5d5d9d6db8](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/what-happened-to-bella-a-family-waits-to-learn-a-horses-fate-in-harvey-flooding/2017/09/03/c9d5d038-8ffc-11e7-84c0-02cc069f2c37_story.html?utm_term=.8e5d5d9d6db8)



“A bond forged behind barbed wire”  
August 20, 2017, A1



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/behind-a-world-war-ii-internment-camps-barbed-wire-two-scouts-forged-a-bond-it-endured-when-they-both-entered-congress/2017/08/11/7542170a-7794-11e7-9eac-d56bd5568db8\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.cd02137dde7f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/behind-a-world-war-ii-internment-camps-barbed-wire-two-scouts-forged-a-bond-it-endured-when-they-both-entered-congress/2017/08/11/7542170a-7794-11e7-9eac-d56bd5568db8_story.html?utm_term=.cd02137dde7f)



“A growing Kabul fears water crisis”  
September 5, 2017, A8



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/in-kabul-access-to-safe-drinking-water-is-a-matter-of-money/2017/08/31/714ea228-8124-11e7-9e7a-20fa8d7a0db6\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.6e7c3d117b00cd02137dde7f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/in-kabul-access-to-safe-drinking-water-is-a-matter-of-money/2017/08/31/714ea228-8124-11e7-9e7a-20fa8d7a0db6_story.html?utm_term=.6e7c3d117b00cd02137dde7f)

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

Teachers Notes | *continued*



“China exporting its bike revolution to the world”  
September 1, 2017, A1



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/nationals-bench-https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/china-exports-its-bike-sharing-revolution-to-the-us-and-the-world/2017/08/31/474c822a-87f4-11e7-9ce7-9e175d8953fa\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.d6fb117868b4](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/nationals-bench-https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/china-exports-its-bike-sharing-revolution-to-the-us-and-the-world/2017/08/31/474c822a-87f4-11e7-9ce7-9e175d8953fa_story.html?utm_term=.d6fb117868b4)



“Pakistan’s dangerous population surge”  
September 10, 2017, A12



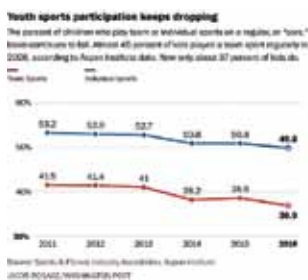
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/a-disaster-in-the-making-pakistans-population-has-more-than-doubled-in-20-years/2017/09/08/4f434c58-926b-11e7-8482-8dc9a7af29f9\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.13f110307adc](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/a-disaster-in-the-making-pakistans-population-has-more-than-doubled-in-20-years/2017/09/08/4f434c58-926b-11e7-8482-8dc9a7af29f9_story.html?utm_term=.13f110307adc)



“An all-inclusive, all-American dream”  
September 7, 2017, D1



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/tennis/venus-williams-sloane-stephens-and-a-memorable-us-open-semifinal/2017/09/06/090e8676-933d-11e7-89fa-bb822a46da5b\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.4a7c3e20e32f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/tennis/venus-williams-sloane-stephens-and-a-memorable-us-open-semifinal/2017/09/06/090e8676-933d-11e7-89fa-bb822a46da5b_story.html?utm_term=.4a7c3e20e32f)



“Youth sports declining in participation amid rising costs”  
September 7, 2017, D5



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/recruiting-insider/wp/2017/09/06/youth-sports-study-declining-participation-rising-costs-and-unqualified-coaches/?utm\\_term=.60f381ffdbf3](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/recruiting-insider/wp/2017/09/06/youth-sports-study-declining-participation-rising-costs-and-unqualified-coaches/?utm_term=.60f381ffdbf3)



“Ex-GM: ‘I did a good job’”  
September 10, 2017, D1



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/fired-by-redskins-scot-mccloughan-says-i-did-a-good-job/2017/09/09/942cbb30-94d5-11e7-89fa-bb822a46da5b\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.c30f253b2b6f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/fired-by-redskins-scot-mccloughan-says-i-did-a-good-job/2017/09/09/942cbb30-94d5-11e7-89fa-bb822a46da5b_story.html?utm_term=.c30f253b2b6f)

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

## KidsPost Ledes



### Bench players shine as stars fall to injuries

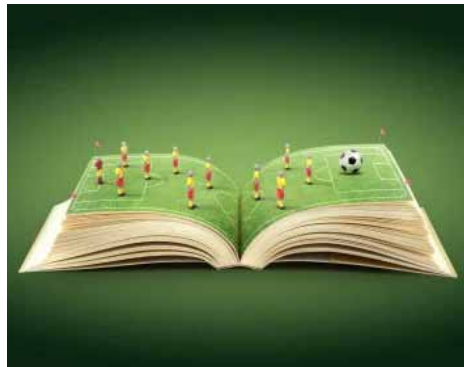
Adam Eaton ... Jayson Werth ... Trea Turner ... Joe Ross ... and now Bryce Harper.

The Washington Nationals have had a lot of injuries this season. And I haven't mentioned the other half-dozen players who are on the disabled list. The Nats have even had scares with pitchers Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg.

Still, Washington is way ahead in the National League East Division. Why? Because a bunch of guys have come off the bench and helped the team. Let's take a look at some of these valuable players.

Wilmer Difo is not big (he's listed at 5-foot-11), but he sure plays big. The Nats can put Difo at almost any position, and he will play well.

Adam Lind is a terrific hitter who would start for most major league teams. Michael A. Taylor, who just came off the disabled list, and Brian Goodwin, who got hurt recently, have shown throughout the season that they



### Wimps do it. Dorks do it. You can do it, too

It's almost September, and kids are going back to school and starting their fall sports seasons. I have a suggestion that might make your sports more fun.

Keep a sports journal. Write about your soccer, baseball or lacrosse team.

I know it sounds a bit like a homework assignment, but you don't have to write every day. If you get stuck on what to write about, just pretend you're writing a letter to a friend telling her about your team. Have fun with it. Don't worry, no one is going to give you a grade for your journal.

There are plenty of popular diaries and journals. Lots of kids love to read *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and the *Dork Diaries*.

There are famous sports diaries, too. Jerry Kramer, an all-pro guard for the Green Bay Packers, kept a journal of his football team's 1967 season. Kramer's book — *Instant Replay* — was on the New York Times bestseller list for 37 weeks.

How do you get started? Buy a notebook. Or open up a file on your computer. You can use a word processing



### Young golfer is becoming a major force

Is Jordan Spieth the next Tiger Woods?

Spieth, who turned 24 on July 27, won the British Open in an amazing comeback last month. In doing so, he became only the second person to win three of golf's four major titles before his 24th birthday. The first was the legendary Jack Nicklaus.

Spieth is favored to finish first in the PGA Championship, which begins Thursday in Charlotte, North Carolina. If he wins, he will become only the sixth player in men's golf to score a victory in each of the majors — the Masters, the U.S. Open, the British Open and the PGA. The five who have achieved this feat are Nicklaus, Woods, Gary Player, Ben Hogan and Gene Sarazen. Pretty good company.

Woods, of course, dominated golf for 15 years, thrilling crowds with his towering drives and clutch putting. He has won 79 PGA Tour events, including 14 major titles.

Woods is now sidelined with serious back problems, and his return to the



## An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

**KidsPost Ledes** | *continued***Patriotism, politics play a role in pledge's past**

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

The Pledge of Allegiance is just 31 words long. Its history, on the other hand, is quite lengthy.

Francis Bellamy, a Christian minister, penned the patriotic sentence in 1892 to mark the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas. He wrote at the time for a general-interest magazine called the *Youth's Companion*, which published the pledge to encourage schoolchildren to recite it each morning.

Schools would need to purchase flags for students to do so, according to pledge expert Shelley Lapkoff, and the magazine just happened to sell them.

"It was both to get people to have flags, in keeping with their belief of patriotism, and then also to help their business," Lapkoff said. "I believe the reason that flags are so predominant in our culture is because of the Pledge of Allegiance and this magazine that was the first to publish it."

**Family visits to Cuba inspired girl to become a poet**

When she was a little girl, Margarita Engle spent her summers in Cuba, where she says she fell in love with nature.

Her mother's home town of Trinidad in central Cuba is near a large nature reserve where people visit waterfalls, go hiking and ride horses.

"Riding horses was my city kid's dream come true," Engle said.

Engle, 66, was born to a Cuban mother and an American father. Her annual visits to the Caribbean island from her home in California shaped her life and inspired her to become a plant scientist and a poet. The Poetry Foundation recently named her its Young People's Poet Laureate, a role Engle plans to use to encourage children and teenagers to write down their feelings.

"Magic happens when you put your emotions in writing," she said.

Engle says she has always liked poetry. At age six, she wrote her first poems about nature. After looking around while taking a walk one day in California, she wrote a rhymed verse about the shapes of hills. In the summer of 2016, she wrote a poem about the

**At the state fair, it's showtime for two kids**

In a comfy corner of the Swine Pavilion at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 14-year-old Mackenzie "Cookie" McGaha (sounds like ma-GAK-ee) feeds her Yorkshire pig a marshmallow. Named for his favorite sweet treat, the 6-month-old pink pig waits in a tidy pen. It almost looks as though he's smiling. Soon it will be time for the pair to compete in a nearby arena.

Cookie and her two older brothers take care of their animals at the show grounds when they compete and also on their family's farm in Beallsville, Maryland. Care involves a lot of early mornings feeding slop, bathing animals and mucking manure. It's messy, and it's hard work.

"But I really enjoy being with the animals," says Cookie, whose parents grew up raising farm animals. "It's a big responsibility caring for these pigs every day," says the girl, who stays in a camper at the fairgrounds with her family during the fair.

In another barn nearby, 11-year-old Jackson Rippeo demonstrates how to

## Pull Readers Into the Article with a Lede

Allusion	Example	Punch
Anecdote	Explanation	Question
Comparison	History	Quotation
Contrast	Humor	Summary
Description	List	Time

1. What is a lede?
2. Select a current news article. What kind of lede does the reporter use? (See above list for some possible answers)
3. Why do you think the reporter chose this type of lede?
4. Does the lede:
  - a. Summarize the news article?
  - b. Introduce readers to the setting?
  - c. Prepare readers for actions and reactions found in the article?
  - d. Give historic, social and/or cultural perspective?
  - e. Explain a complex idea through an example?
  - f. Prepare readers to understand the article's news and ideas through humor, music or a familiar quotation?
5. Select an article (news or feature). Rewrite the lede using a different type of lede.
6. Why do you think this type of lede will draw readers into your selected article and encourage readers to keep reading?

## An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

**From the Beginning**

**From death row to adoption:  
Saving animals by car, van,  
bus and even phone**

SAN FERNANDO, Calif. — May was supposed to be dead by now. The charcoal-and-white pit bull mix had languished for more than two months at a high-kill animal shelter in east Los Angeles County, and though she'd passed one "temperament test" required for adoption, she failed a second. That essentially put her on death row at the facility.

But a small rescue group got to May first and reserved her a spot on a school bus that would take her 840 miles north to Eugene, Ore.; there, another rescue had pledged to find her a home. And so on a sunny Saturday morning, she bounded up the steps of the red bus and quickly settled into a large crate near the back.

She had plenty of company as the wheels rolled along the highway: 105 other dogs and cats collected from crowded shelters in California and destined for the Pacific Northwest, where euthanasia rates are lower and pets are in greater demand. Their four rows of crates were stacked floor to ceiling.



**Holding out hope  
for a teen's horse**

PORT ARTHUR, Tex. The last time she saw the family horse, the floodwaters were rushing in.

It was after midnight Wednesday. Dark. The storm was fierce. Two feet of standing water turned into four in just a couple of hours, and it was starting to invade the house. Their cars were nearly submerged. They needed to get out. A boat suddenly appeared in their yard, riding atop a new wall of water.

Nazirah Sly, 43, jumped in along with her husband and 18-year-old daughter, Alicia. They also loaded five dogs and a few bags from the house. The horse lived in a small stable in the yard. She was a brown American quarter horse that had been a Christmas present for the daughter four years earlier. The teen was the one who named the horse Bella.

There was no time to save Bella. The boat was full. Horses don't go on boats. The water was rising and Sly said a prayer. She recalled looking back at the home as they floated away.



**A bond forged behind  
barbed wire**

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wyo. When they are together, it's not hard to see the Boy Scouts they were when they met seven decades ago, in the barbed-wire Japanese internment camp that sprawled over desolate fields. One was imprisoned here; one belonged to the only troop that agreed to a jamboree on the inside.

Norman Mineta went on to become a mayor, a Democratic congressman and a Cabinet secretary to two presidents. Alan K. Simpson went on to serve Wyoming as its Republican senator for 18 years. And they have returned to speak out against the racism that led to Heart Mountain's opening 75 years ago this month.

On this day, they are goofing around after dinner on the front porch of one of Simpson's favorite haunts in Cody, where storefront signs once read "No Japs Allowed."

## An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

**From the Beginning** | *continued***A growing Kabul fears water crisis**

KABUL — In affluent areas of the Afghan capital, sky-blue vans make daily deliveries of huge plastic water-cooler jars, dropping them at embassies, offices and ornate private homes surrounded by high walls.

“Water, clean and pure,” beckon the slogans on each van. “Water is life.”

But in much of greater Kabul, where the population has tripled to 5 million in the past decade, the quest for safe drinking water is more arduous. Returned war refugees camp in muddy vacant lots; trenches of fetid wastewater run beside dusty, unpaved streets. Apartment construction has soared, adding to the strain on old, overloaded water and sewer services.

With no formal water-supply systems in many areas, people dig wells in their yards, boring deeper each time they dry up. With no public sewage systems, some also build septic tanks, but many simply dig latrines. As a result, well water contains arsenic and

**China exporting its bike revolution to the world**

BEIJING — To rent a bike in China, all it takes is a phone app, and any of the millions of bicycles scattered on sidewalks everywhere can be yours. No bike stand. No drop-off point. You scan a code, you ride, you leave and lock the bike wherever and whenever you’re done.

China’s billion-dollar bike-sharing revolution has already transformed the look and feel of cities around the country, with more than 100 million apps downloaded and billions of rides taken on many millions of bikes.

Now it is going global.

Last month, a Chinese company called Ofo made its first foray into the United States, delivering 1,000 bicycles to the streets of Seattle, with plans to expand nationally. From Italy to Kazakhstan, from Britain to Japan, from Singapore — Asia’s greenest city — to one of its most congested, Bangkok, Ofo and its main Chinese rival Mobike are on a breakneck race to expand across the globe.

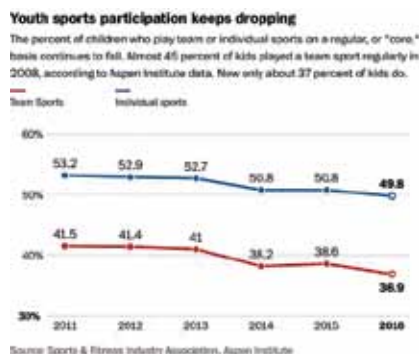
**Pakistan’s dangerous population surge**

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan — For years, Pakistan’s soaring population growth has been evident in increasingly crowded schools, clinics and poor communities across this vast, Muslim-majority nation. But until two weeks ago, no one knew just how serious the problem was. Now they do.

Preliminary results from a new national census — the first conducted since 1998 — show that the population has grown by 57 percent since then, reaching 207.7 million and making Pakistan the world’s fifth-most-populous country, surpassing Brazil and ranking behind China, India, the United States and Indonesia. The annual birthrate, while gradually declining, is still alarmingly high. At 22 births per 1,000 people, it is on a par with Bolivia and Haiti, and among the highest outside Africa.

“The exploding population bomb has put the entire country’s future in jeopardy,” columnist Zahid Hussain wrote in the Dawn newspaper recently. With 60 percent of the population younger than 30, nearly a third of

## An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

**From the Beginning** | *continued***An all-inclusive, all-American dream**

NEW YORK — She finished sixth in the country in the backstroke and swam to all-American honors at Boston University in the same time frame when, in April 1987, Los Angeles Dodgers executive Al Campanis went on Ted Koppel's "Nightline" to state, among other lunacies, that black people were "not good swimmers" because "they don't have the buoyancy."

She cringed when teammates made offhand, opposite comments such as, "You're a natural athlete. Of course you're going to be a good swimmer," and, "You're so lucky you don't have to work that hard."

To the *Boston Herald* in 1988, she said, "I've been the only black female at the U.S. nationals for the last five years. I was the only black female in the NCAA championships my whole career. It seems I've always been the only black swimmer. I'm grown up to accept it, deal with it."

**Youth sports declining in participation amid rising costs**

Between skyrocketing costs, sport specialization and coaches needing training, youth sports is in the midst of a crisis, according to new data published Wednesday by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association and the Aspen Institute.

Athletic participation for kids ages 6 through 12 is down almost 8 percent over the last decade, according to SFIA and Aspen data, and children from low-income households are half as likely to play one day's worth of team sports than children from households earning at least \$100,000.

"Sports in America have separated into sport-haves and have-nots," said Tom Farrey, executive director of Aspen's Sports & Society program. The group released its research at its annual Project Play Summit on Wednesday in Washington. "All that matters is if kids come from a family that has resources. If you don't have money, it's hard to play."

**Ex-GM: 'I did a good job'**

LOVELAND, Colo. — Scot McCloughan sits in his overstuffed living-room chair, eyes fixed on the 52-inch TV screen that's connected to his iPad loaded with every college football game contested in 2016, and rewinds until he finds the precise moment that excites him so.

"Look at that jump-cut!" McCloughan says, pointing the red light that emanates from his Bluetooth remote control at the running back's feet. "He's got the vision to see the hole open up to the left. And see how strong he is? He's always falling forward. That's another three yards!"

Six months after being fired as the Washington Redskins' general manager barely two years into a four-year contract, McCloughan is preparing for the 2017 NFL season the same way he has for the last two decades. He is analyzing film of top college prospects — in this case, a Southeastern Conference running back he is evaluating

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

## GUIDELINES

# When Reading a Feature Article

News, opinion (editorials, columns, and guest commentary), and feature are the three main categories for newspaper and online media content. Feature articles come in many forms, but all have a human interest appeal. They may be found in the news, business, style and sports sections. They are usually longer than other pieces.

When reading a feature, you may ask yourself these questions in order to understand the writer's craft better. These elements work together to create a satisfying, entertaining and challenging read.

- Headlines are meant to summarize the article (especially those of news stories) or capture a busy reader's attention. Is the headline a complete thought or a phrase? If a phrase, is there a subhead to provide more information?
- Do photographs accompany the feature article? What do you learn from the photographs — without reading the captions?
- From the information provided in the headline and photographs, what do you think this feature will be about?
- What kind of lede does the reporter use? How does it indicate what to expect in the rest of the piece?
- What additional information is given in the first five to ten paragraphs to inform the reader?
- How many and who are the main people included (observed and/or interviewed) in the feature? In what way does each develop the focus or theme of the feature?
- What was witnessed or observed by the writer? What is known through interviews? What is known through documents?
- Did an aspect of the story surprise you? Or what aspect of the story did you find most interesting?
- Summarize the feature's central content in one to three paragraphs.
- Features are human interest pieces. What emotions, conflicts, relationships or other aspects of human behavior and concerns are present in this feature?
- What is the main idea you gained from reading this feature?
- Has your thinking on this topic been changed, challenged or expanded?