

Newspaper / Magazine Article Discussion Worksheet

You should look for an article in English on a topic you are interested in. Try to find a **medium length article** (200-300) words but it's also ok to use a longer article and cut the parts you don't want to use to make it smaller. There are lots of good articles on the internet, so good luck searching ! You can also read English magazines/newspapers in the library. **Don't use an article from a textbook !!**

- **Preparing an article for Discussion.**

You should break your article into some short readings and then ask discussion / conversation questions about that part of the article or around the general topic.

- **Make 15-20 discussion questions about your article.**

*** Make sure your questions are **Discussion Questions** ! ***

Some examples...

Do you agree with the statement "... " ? Why ? Why not ?
How do you feel about (topic) ?
What do you think about (topic) ?
Do you think that (...) ? Why ?
What do you think about people who (...) ? Why ?
Please tell me what you know about (topic) ?

You should ask lots of questions which need long answers.
Use "Why? Why not?"

- **Please put a short vocabulary list on your discussion sheet.**

Choose some useful or new words from the article that will help people to discuss your topic.

To get 10 points for your discussion sheet, make sure

- your article is longer than 200 words.
- you break your article into short readings
- you write the source of your article (Name of website **AND** the URL)
- you have a vocabulary list (minimum 5 words)
- you have 15 or more **discussion questions**

Newspaper / Magazine Article Discussion Worksheet

Here are some useful websites. Of course, you can choose other sites too.

Trends in Japan

<web-japan.org/trends/index.html>

Has various articles on culture, life & trends in Japan

Japan Today

<www.japantoday.com>

Have a look at the “**popvox**” section of the website as well.

<www.japantoday.com/e/?content=popvox>

The Japan Times online

<www.japantimes.co.jp/start.htm>

The Mainichi Daily News Online

<www.mdn.mainichi-msn.co.jp>

The Daily Yomiuri

<www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/>

The Asahi Shimbun (English)

<www.asahi.com/english/english.html>

News on Japan

<www.newsonjapan.com>

BBC

<news.bbc.co.uk>

CNN

<www.cnn.com>

Time Magazine (Asia)

<www.time.com/time/asia>

Frequently Asked Questions about the Discussion Sheet....

Do I have to put my discussion sheet on B4 paper ?

No, you can use A4 paper for your discussion sheet. Of course, please remember to staple your worksheets together.

I use B4 paper because I have to copy worksheets for lots of people and it saves paper.

Newspaper / Magazine Article Discussion Worksheet

Can I use more than one article for my discussion sheet ?

It's probably better to use one article for your worksheet but you can use more than one article **if the topic(s) are connected**. If you do this, don't forget to write the names and URLs of all the articles you use.

For example, one person made a worksheet on the movie "Lord of The Rings". He used one article about the movie from the BBC website, and then he used a short interview with the stars of the movie from another website.

I'm having trouble making 15 questions. What should I do ?

If you are having problems making lots of questions, it usually means your article is too short. Is your article longer than 200 words ?

Try making a mind map on the same topic - it might help you make some more questions for your sheet.

Look for interesting or controversial statements in your article, you could ask "do you agree with (statement) ? Why ? Why not ?"

If you really want to, perhaps you could try and find another article on the same topic and add it to your discussion sheet. you may be able to make more questions that way.

I'm having trouble finding an article. What should I do ?

If you really can't find an article, then I suggest you go to the "Trends in Japan" website, or to "Japan Today" or to the popvox section of the "Japan Today" website. You should be able to find something there that you can use for your discussion sheet.

Can I use pictures on my discussion sheet ?

Yes, you can.

Do I have to type my discussion sheet ?

It's probably easier to type it, but if you want to photocopy and cut your article into pieces and then write your questions by hand, that's ok too.