

Creating a 1920's Magazine

Literature and creative writing

Your job is to create a magazine covering aspects of culture, politics, arts, music, lifestyles in the USA from the 1920's. You will create this magazine as a class project in groups of three, each person working to create at least one article that is reflective of the time period and possibly an advertisement as a group. In the course of your project, you will mimic a magazine's content and style, making a 1920's edition that is reflective of that magazine's format.

Magazine Requirements:

You will need to choose a magazine format which you will imitate. After analyzing a typical magazine (consider who the typical reader is), you will create a magazine that mimics that format. Some ideas for format:

Images for magazines 1920s

- OldMagazineArticles.com
- <http://www.lawlessdecade.net>
- google time.com, + magazine (up top) + search box 1926 (cover) for example may 17 business notes + view cover +inside this issue

You will create a magazine with the following components according to the format of one above:

Cover Page (picture, title of magazine, editors/contributors, & date)

Table of Contents (this has to be created last)

Feature or news articles. Articles must be written as if they could be in your model magazine during the 1920's (e.g. in a 1926's issue of Time). Each group member is responsible for one article. They can be about any significant event, trend or development during the 1920's.

Articles should be typed in column format, like a newspaper or magazine .You might wrap the article around a picture or an advertisement. Your articles must correspond to the date of your magazine and have some perspective of time. For instance, if your magazine is written in 1926, you cannot write about the stock market crash of 1929.

- **BIBLIOGRAPHY:** For each article, **you must use at least two sources of information –**

These items should be **original** creations – not a print out from the Internet or a copy of an advertisement you have seen in your research. They should combine your historical/literary knowledge with your imagination. Each should be tailored to your magazine's audience.

Advertisements (by private organizations or the government) You may copy images but you must create the text yourself. The ads must suit the audience of the magazine and be a popular product of the era.

Letter to the Editor - on a current controversial issue or a satirical Cartoon (must be created, not copied).

General Guidelines

Content:

1. Accuracy in reporting.
2. Accounts that are rich in detail, factual evidence, and that are interesting to read. The person who reads your magazine should learn much about the era!

Style:

1. Imagination and creativity, both in writing and presentation
2. Well-written articles including proper grammar and spelling. Use rich details in a logical order.
3. A neat, professional, aesthetically pleasing magazine that is consistent with the model magazine you have chosen. If I were from the target audience would I pick it off the shelf in the 1920's?

MAGAZINE ANALYSIS

Magazines usually have a target audience. Of course, they would like to sell to as many people as possible, but since no magazine can be all things to all people, they will usually target a group large enough to make a profit, but specific enough to be distinctive.

Your first task is to choose a magazine that would be interesting, then try to figure out what its target audience is. In considering the audience , take into account such factors as:

- the education level required to read the articles,
- the hobbies or interests of the audience,
- the economic class of the reader and adapt the products advertised, (luxury or common),
- the depth of the articles (superficial, in-depth) ,
- the level of vocabulary ,
- the tone (lighthearted, serious),
- what is emphasized in the coverage of a particular newsworthy topic.

Major Events, Trends and Ideas from the 1920's:

-- **Consumer and Popular Culture:** Americans begin the trend of spending for what you want in addition to what you need. Rise of advertising, mass media (including radio and consolidation of newspapers) and cheaply produced goods create a change in spending. The automobile is especially important –it becomes the backbone of American economy through the 1920's .

- **Prohibition** goes into effect in 1920 – causes widespread crime and a whole culture of speakeasies, bathtub gin, and **Gangsters**. Al Capone for example.

- **Women's role in society is rapidly changing:** A second large feminist movement – Women took the right to vote in 1919 and styles/practices of women both in leisure and work start changing – **Fashion** (“Flappers”), Consumption (of cigarettes and alcohol) and Work (in new industries or professions) changed face of relations between the sexes. Birth Control first widely advocated by Margaret Sanger.

- **Harlem Renaissance:** A new arts movement flourishes in New York. Its influence spreads to and comes from the South, Chicago, Kansas City.

- **Jazz – America's Classical Music:** American music started to come into its own, with a character that was distinct from European or African influence. Major players included Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and Bessie Smith.

- **Urbanism:** More and more people moved to the cities, creating new interactions. 1920 was the first census in which more Americans lived in urban areas than rural areas.

- **Sports:** Baseball, Tennis, Golf, Football, and Boxing each gained new popularity. Stars included Babe Ruth (baseball), Jack Dempsey (boxing), Red Grange (football). Helen Wills (tennis), and Bobby Jones (golf). The 1927 Yankees are considered by many as the greatest American sports team ever.

- **Movies:** Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Rudolph Valentino and Clara Bow were stars of this popular art form.

- **Literature:** F. Scott Fitzgerald (*The Great Gatsby*), Ernest Hemingway (*The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms*), T.S. Eliot (*The Wasteland*),

-**Racial Tension:** The Ku Klux Klan reached its highest membership during the 20's. Several Congressmen and government administrators were members, and the organization found large numbers of new recruits. New immigration laws were passed to keep out Southern and Eastern Europeans and select Asian groups.

Formula for a Well-Written News Article

1. Outline the purpose of your article
2. Choose an article topic
3. Research the article
4. Write the article
5. Edit the article - have a friend/group partner proofread it
6. Rewrite the article and type it on the computer
7. Do a spell / grammar check
8. Upload your article on the school elearning platform so all the class/teacher can read it.

Newspaper /magazine articles require a different style of writing from what is used when writing a story. The newspaper article has all of the important information in the opening paragraph. This information includes who, what, when, where, why and how. It is written this way because most people do not read an entire newspaper article all the way through.

So newspaper writers put the most important information at the beginning.

A typical newspaper article various parts:

Headline: This is a short, attention-getting statement about the event.

Lead paragraph: This has ALL the who, what, when, where, why and how in it. A writer must find the answers to these questions and write them into the opening sentence(s) of the article.

Explanation: After the lead paragraph has been written, the writer must decide what other facts or details the reader might want to know. The writer must make sure that he/she has enough information to answer any important questions a reader might have after reading the headline and the lead paragraph. This section can also include direct quotes from witnesses or bystanders.

Additional Information: This information is the least important. Thus, if the news article is too long for the space it needs to fill, it can be shortened without rewriting any other part. This part can include information about a similar event.

First paragraph

In your first one or two sentences tell who, what, when, where, and why. Try to hook the reader by beginning with a funny, clever, or surprising statement. Go for variety: try

beginning your article with a question or a provocative statement.

Second/Third/Fourth paragraphs

Give the reader the details. Include one or two quotes from people you interviewed. Write in the third person (he, she, it, they). Be objective -- never state your opinion. Use quotes to express others' opinions!

Last paragraph

Wrap it up somehow (don't leave the reader hanging)

Please don't say...."In conclusion" or "To finish..." (yawn!) Try ending with a quote or a catchy phrase.

Use active words (verbs that show what's really happening.)

Tell the really interesting info .

Edit Your Story!

You've written a GOOD story. But before you turn it in, edit it – go over the story again, fixing mistakes, maybe rewriting some things — and turn it into a GREAT story. Here's how.

1. Make sure you have included who – what – when – where – why – how.
2. Don't editorialize. That means, don't put in what you think or believe.
3. Write clearly, using simple words. Imagine that you are telling the story to your friend.
4. Check the spelling of all words, especially people's names.
5. Make sure your quotes are accurate and in the proper form.

Magazine Layout

You've all written great articles that will become part of a Magazine . Your articles will have a headline and your byline, but how do you decide where to place them in the magazine? Consider these general guidelines:

- Top priority are the articles near the front (pages 1 – 2).
- Group similar subjects together on a page.
- Do you have a picture or graphic to go with the article? Placement of an article sometimes depends on how much space you have for an illustration. Always put the picture with the story.
- How long are your articles? If your main story is long and has a photo to go with it, it could take up most of the page.

PART 2

CLASS PRESENTATION

Each group will present the area of interest they have dealt with orally to the class (may use personal notes/guidelines or images) focusing on a connection with the novel *The Great Gatsby*).The rest of the class will take note, ask questions and give an assessment on exposition.

MAKING THE MAGAZINE

After uploading the final version of articles, cover, images letters, adverts, a small group of students, already contributors to the school magazine, will be given the task of downloading the articles, etc , creating the index and the layout of the magazine by using specific software.