

# Comment on a newspaper article

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## Teacher Sheet

### Task

Your students will be given the following task.

You are going to write a comment on an online newspaper article to share your reaction to the text with other readers.

For this, you will first read an article of your choice. Choose an article corresponding to your interests (culture, video games, politics, science, technology, sport, etc.).

### Sites

Here are some examples of online newspapers. The goal is to identify a media for which information gives rise to multiple comments so that your learners can interact with other readers.

- Euronews - <https://www.euronews.com/>  
Site available for the following languages: Albanian, German, English, Arabic, Bulgarian, Spanish, French, Georgian, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Turkish, Romanian.
- Wikinews - <https://www.wikinews.org/>  
It is a participatory site of the Wikimedia Foundation created in a collaborative way. Available in several languages: German, English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Russian with more or less contributions.
- FR (France): 20 Minutes - <https://www.20minutes.fr/> ;
- ES (Spain): 20 Minutes - <https://www.20minutos.es/> ;
- DE (Switzerland): 20 Minuten - <https://www.20min.ch/> ;
- DE (Austria): Kronen Zeitung - <https://www.krone.at/>. This newspaper has a populist orientation. The comments are numerous, which is of interest, but they are often of poor quality.
- DE (Austria): Der Standard - <https://www.derstandard.at/> ;
- EN (Allemagne): Die Zeit - <https://www.zeit.de/index> ;

- EN/ES/DE: [The Conversation](#) written by scientists.

Here are some criteria for choosing a daily newspaper<sup>1</sup>:

- diversity of opinions and sources;
- relevance of the contribution (topicality, answer to the questions of the Quintilien questionnaire (Who? What? Where? When? How? How much? Why?), analytical depth);
- accuracy, precision, transparency of information;
- impartiality (balance, neutrality);
- intelligibility, conciseness of text;
- errors are regularly corrected;
- there is a difference between news articles and opinion articles;
- misleading titles are avoided;
- advertising is clearly marked as such.

## CEFR level - From B1

### Objectives

#### Digital citizenship and literacy

	Dimensions addressed	(Possible) Specific objectives
Digital citizenship	Ethical and responsible	Taking responsibility for your own words.
	Critique	Adopting a reflective stance from what is read and seen.
	Informed	Base your own opinion on verified information, facts and sources.
Meaning-making literacy	Knowledge of creating and disseminating information	Subscribe to comment updates whenever possible.

<sup>1</sup> According to <https://www.drehscheibe.org/internetwerkstatt-detail/guetesiegel-fuer-journalismus.html> and <https://www.schader-stiftung.de/themen/demographie-und-strukturwandel/fokus/digitalisierung/artikel/leserbinden-durch-qualitaet-welche-qualitaetsdimensionen-einer-nachricht-erkennen-mediennutzer>

## Main language activity

- Written reception for the reading of articles to be commented on, including the decoding of a multimodal text (text, image, typography).
- Written production for the writing of comments.

## Plurilingual/intercultural aspects

If an article about the learners' country is chosen, they may need to verify the information by consulting sources in their own language. They can then act as mediators between these sources and the French-speaking readership.

## Possible steps

- Discuss the criteria for choosing a daily newspaper and make a choice.
- In groups, ask learners to choose a theme on which they will work.
- Choose an article to comment on according to its theme, accessibility, etc.
- Read this article (taking the photos into account) with the comments and think about what roles the comments play: do they complement, contradict, nuance, etc. the text information?
- Question the reliability of the information contained in the article and the comments, and verify them.
- Think about what enables to distinguish between objective comments (which may be based on sources) and those comments in which a certain subjectivity is expressed (what are the indicators of this subjectivity?)
- Identify the terms which, in the comments, are used to contradict, qualify, confirm the information. Compile lists of these linguistic forms.
- Exchange opinions in small groups to identify the content of the comments to be posted taking into account the article and the reactions of readers that are already published.
- Write comments.
- Cross-read comments.
- Publish.
- Sign up for comment tracking, if possible.

# Comment on a newspaper article

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## Student Sheet

### Task

You are going to write a comment on an online newspaper article to share your reaction with other readers of the text.

For this, you will first read an article of your choice. Choose an article corresponding to your interests (culture, video games, politics, science, technology, sport, etc.).

### Sites<sup>2</sup>

Here are some media that publish information with articles that can be commented on.

- Euronews - <https://www.euronews.com/>  
Site available for the following languages: Albanian, German, English, Arabic, Bulgarian, Spanish, French, Georgian, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Turkish, Romanian.
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<sup>2</sup> The teacher will make a choice here and will only offer what he deems relevant for his learners.

## CEFR level - From B1

### Objectives

#### Digital citizenship and literacy

While completing this task, you can:

- develop your critical thinking and contribute information by commenting on an online newspaper article;
- post a comment based on verified and reliable information and taking into account reader reactions already published;
- take responsibility for your opinions and explain them so that they can be shared.

#### Plurilingual / intercultural aspects

To verify information, you can consult sites in different languages, including your first language. In this way, you will act as 'mediators' between these sources and French-speaking readers.

### Hints

#### Keep in mind who you are addressing

- Read the rules of conduct for posting comments.
- Read the comments already posted to identify behaviors that seem inappropriate to you and avoid them.
- Try to adapt your comment to the readership of the newspaper while having ethical, responsible and respectful behavior.
- Consider that your comment may elicit criticism, sometimes even phrased in a disrespectful way. Think about how you can avoid this by asking yourself what might provoke this kind of reaction.

#### Work on the language-related aspects

- Look at different comments to see what they are about, how they are built, etc.
- Identify the linguistic means to express opinions similar to those present in the article or in the comments. Also identify the means used to qualify or contradict the opinions expressed. You may be able to reuse some terms or expressions to write your comment.
- Consider whether the style, form and level of editing of your commentary is appropriate for the chosen journal. If needed, ask your peers or your teacher for help.

## For you to think about

While completing this task, you can reflect on the following:

- What difficulties, if any, have you had in writing your comments? How did you overcome them?
- What do you think is important to consider for posting other comments in your language or in a learned language?
- How can one prepare for disrespectful reactions: for example, have a group discussion on the need to put these kinds of reaction into perspective, how to respond to them (if necessary), etc.