

LESSON: History Unfolded: Black Press Coverage of the Holocaust

NAME: _____

ANSWER KEY: Learn the Parts of a Newspaper

INSTRUCTIONS: [Use the following newspaper issue](#) on the Library of Congress’s Chronicling America website to help identify the parts of a newspaper. OCR Interpretation and image files are available.

1. The masthead is defined as “the name of a publication displayed on the top of the first page”. Looking at the scanned image, what is the masthead or name of the newspaper?

The newspaper issue date is listed as March 1939. Looking at the top of the page, what city and state was this newspaper published in?

Afro-American Courier

Yazoo City, Mississippi

The first page of the newspaper consists of a number of news articles. News articles were reports or summaries of recent events from staff reporters or wire service companies (such as the Associated Negro Press) that allowed a large number of subscribing papers to print their stories. While many newspapers presented news articles in a detached form (avoiding an emotional tone), this was not necessarily the case with stories in the Black press.

News articles on this page are separated by lines and dashes. Each news article has a headline or title of a few words in bold. Some of the articles on the page have a sub-headline or sub-title immediately below the headline and above where the story is. There is a story on the bottom right corner of the page with the headline “Mrs. Roosevelt Mum On Scrap With D. A. R.”

2. Look at the front page. What kind of information did the paper choose to report on?

[Answers may vary.] The newspaper reported on upcoming and past events, including galas, birthday parties, and festivals. There is information about club organizations, the death of the English archaeologist who discovered King Tut’s tomb, and the importance of observing Negro History Week.

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3. What is the sub-headline of the story “Mrs. Roosevelt Mum on Scrap With D. A. R.”? What city was this news article written in? When was the story written?

Reported To Have Resigned Because of Ban On Singer

Washington, D.C. February 27, 1939

Turning to [page 2 of the newspaper](#), you may notice that the page looks a little different. This is the editorial page. Many papers had an editorial page, sometimes on the same page each issue. One way you can identify the editorial page is that this page typically had the newspaper name and list of editors in the upper left corner of the page.

4. Who is the Current News Reporter, according to the editorial page?

Mrs. Willeva Lindsey

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The pieces on page 2 “Politeness”, “Adversary”, “Desertion”, and “A New Pope” are all considered editorials. In traditional editorials, newspaper editors gave their reactions and opinions to events happening in the news. In some cases, wire service organizations supplied editorials which subscribing newspapers could choose to print if they wished.

5. Looking at the “Desertion” editorial, what is the writer’s reaction to the case when people join a cause but then leave or desert it?

The writer argues that there are many instances when people desert, including from organizations like churches, schools, and marriages. The writer believes that people should be committed to causes they have taken up, saying: “When one has taken a stand for a cause, he should stand by it at all costs.” The writer goes on to say that people should not leave a cause just because they have received the benefits of it. Finally, the writer argues that those who have deserted a cause should return to it.

Page 2 also has a section for readers of the paper to submit letters to the newspaper staff expressing their thoughts or reactions to either the news or stories previously printed by the paper in the past. These types of pieces are called letters to the editor.

6. How many letters to the editor are there on this page? Where are they located on the newspaper page?

3 Letters

Under the section called “Letter Box” on the right side of the page