

■ Start the campaign

Scholastic Journalism Week is **Feb. 18-22, 2008**, so start planning now. The JEA Web site (www.jea.org) has posters and materials for the occasion that you can download. The Illinois Press Foundation also has free posters on the First Amendment (www.illinoisfirstamendmentcenter.com). Here are some other ideas:

■ Get the word out there.

Have your journalism class make fliers about famous journalists. They will be doing research, learning about influential journalism leaders, and they will be doing their jobs as journalists: informing the public.

Don't have time to make fliers? That's OK. You can have students work in small groups to research developments in the First Amendment. Each group can focus on a different case. At the end of the project have each group present on what its case did for the First Amendment.

This way they are doing less time-consuming research, but they still have an opportunity to learn about all the significant cases. It takes some of the pressure off you as well; if you are a little rusty in the First Amendment department, you might learn something, too.

■ Send in an expert

This would be the perfect time for a guest speaker. Tap into one of the newspapers around your area. Ask reporters, editors, designers or photographers to come talk to your students about what goes into a daily newspaper, or have them talk about their experiences in the field.

If you don't have any contacts, call Kim Filson at the Illinois Press Foundation for help (217) 241-1300. She will help find someone from a local newspaper to either come to your class or perhaps set up a field trip to the newspaper office.

■ Write to a local newspaper

Have the students pick out an article that they feel strongly about and use class time to have the students write a letter to the editor. Maybe one of them will get it published. Either way, they are reading about their local news and getting involved in the community.

This is a great way to show them how journalism applies outside of the classroom.

■ Project

Why not practice some civic journalism? Choose a cause that can affect the student body or the school. This will teach the students about the power of news and it will be for a good cause.

The catch? You have to find a good cause and devote some time, resources and news space to it. Once the project is over, make sure you cover the results in the paper and document the efforts the staff made.

■ Journalism trivia

What better time than to assess the students on their overall knowledge of journalism? You don't have to give them a test to do it, either. Create a Jeopardy-type game or a variation of it. You will discover what the students struggle with and what topics they are most enthusiastic about, and the students will have fun doing it.

If you have trouble coming up with quiz questions look through the supplemental materials at <http://www.jea.org/resources/jweek/index.html>.

There you can find questions and answers for the most influential people of the 20th century, notable women in journalism and the history of photojournalism.