

SciJourn Read-Aloud



LEDES

The lede of a news story is the hook that grabs the reader, usually at the beginning of the article. In this *Seed Activity*, students are shown several different possible ledes for the same story and are asked to decide which is most interesting.

Background: The spelling of *lede* is correct. The term was originally used by journalists to differentiate from *lead* (the metal) from which type for printing was made. Today, journalists continue to use the *lede* spelling.

Activity: Read and/or show each of the following ledes to the students. Ask which might entice a reader to read the article. Have students measure each lede on a scale of 0-10 with 10 being the most interesting or most likely to engage the readers.

LEDE A

A common virus, known as the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), infects most of the human population at some point in their lives, says the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC). Most are infected as children and show only flu-like symptoms. When this virus affects teens and young adults, it can cause mononucleosis.

LEDE B

Growing up can be very difficult. For teenagers, there is acne, peer pressure and danger around every turn; not to mention all the drama. But the last thing people think of as a problem for teens, is kissing. Although most teens do not spend all of their time making out, it only takes one kiss to spread diseases.

LEDE C

Mononucleosis is a disease caused by the Epstein-Barr virus. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, weakness, headache, rash, swollen tonsils, swollen lymph glands, or sore throat. This disease is contagious and easily spread.

After the students rate each lede examine the ledes with the highest and lowest ratings and discuss reasons.

Note: Lede B is an actual lede for a SciJourn article titled “The Kissing Disease” and can be read in its entirety at scijourner.org.