

gress and the geography of places all around the world. For instance, when the Pope visited Cuba, Americans learned about the history and geography of the island. Most importantly, the newspaper **connects us to our community** by publishing important announcements like births, deaths, weddings and the events occurring in town like fairs and government meetings. Reading the newspaper helps us develop our intelligence as citizens by providing us with important information about our world.

Supporting Ideas:  
Connection to  
community

Conclusion

### Our Daily Tutor

Around six o'clock in the morning, a loud thump can be heard at many front doors. For millions of Americans, it is one of the most cherished sounds of the day, for it heralds the arrival of the daily newspaper. Some of us enjoy the ritual of reading the paper as we sip our coffee while others take the paper to work and read it along the way. A few even have the patience to wait until they come home from work at the end of the day. Of course, not every American reads the paper every day, but most of us do spend the twenty-five cents to one dollar when some important event occurs. In fact, newspaper readership has been falling steadily for many years. Many people avoid the news because they find it depressing. However, what all Americans should realize is that citizens of a democracy need to be informed in order to make intelligent choices at the ballot box and to participate in the public debates that help shape our country's course. **The daily newspaper provides a valuable source of information.** Not only does it report the news, but it provides valuable background information that helps us understand how our world works, and it connects us to our community and culture.

Introduction

Thesis  
(Main Idea)

Supporting Paragraph #1:  
The News

Reading the daily news makes us better citizens by informing us about what is happening in the world around us. First, the international news alerts us to developments around the world that may have profound consequences. For example, when another country tests a nuclear weapon or a region erupts in violence, the news may not be pleasant, but our understanding is crucial because such events affect all of us and perhaps even the future of the planet. In addition, our awareness of current events can get us involved in causes such as stopping the spread of nuclear weapons or righting the wrongs that create regional hatreds. Second, the national news keeps us in touch with events closer to home. We learn of political developments in Washington that may change the way we live, and we make judgments about our leaders' actions that will influence the way we vote in the next election. Last but not least, the state and local news keeps us in touch with our regional politicians and with issues like economic development that affect our area. All this information goes into our personal data bank and informs our voice in the great chorus of American democracy.

Supporting Paragraph #2:  
Background Information

Almost as important as the news is the background information the newspaper supplies in order to give the news an understandable context. We are shown detailed maps of regions that are experiencing a conflict or natural disaster, and we are given the historical background to news events like the fighting in the Middle East. When the El Niño weather system emerged, newspapers ran detailed accounts of the weather system's causes, effects, and possible future. In addition, the workings of government institutions like Congress and the Supreme Court are regularly explained. New scientific developments like