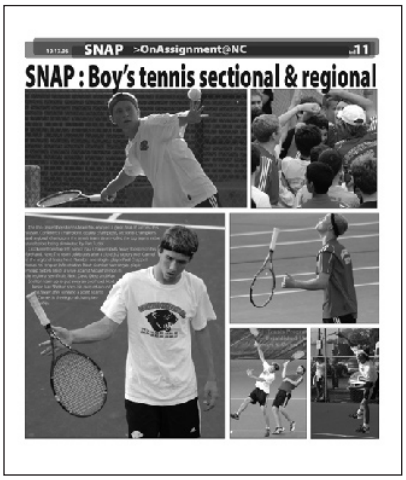
Old stories/Fresh Ideas



For the past few years, the student editors of The Northern Lights and TNL2 have attempted to create a fresh newspaper that appeals to a high school audience.

Newspapers aren't what they once were. Nowadays, papers must compete with numerous information sources and a hectic teenage schedule. Text messaging, instant messaging, cell phones, e-mail, MySpace and Facebook are just some of the things that teens are involved with every day.

Readers need to be tricked into reading the newspaper. The days of long stories could very well be finished. It is up to the reporter to now find a way to present the same amount of information in new and innovative ways.

NC student journalists studied other papers, magazines and Web sites to come up with new ways or presenting information. Here are some of the things they do:

- question and answer format for most stories about individuals
- shorter columns
- photo essays with expanded captions for most sports coverage
- larger photos
- no cut-out photos
- how-to's
- quick news briefs from the editors
- student-driven stories/questions
- shorter articles, more to-the-point
- feedback opportunities
- magazine-style design