

**Poth High School Journalism Survey**  
**Report by: Tiffany K. Polasek**  
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The Poth Journalism Crew conducted a survey about news and media to all Poth High School students. These students all live in the vicinity of Poth, Texas, which is located 36 miles southeast of San Antonio, Texas. This is a very small rural community.

A total of 187 students were surveyed. The ages of these students ranged from 14 to 18. Below are the questions with the results directly after each question.

The intention of this survey was to see how students feel about news print and other media sources that directly affect their lives and community. The group was also trying to find ways to interest more students in the local newspaper. The questions were created by the PJC, with the help of some suggestions from the *Wilson County News*.

Question 1

Do you do any reading outside of the classroom?

67% Yes                      33% No

Question 2

Would you be more inclined to read the newspaper if it contained more color?

64% Yes                      36% No

Question 3

Do your parents read the newspaper often?

78% Yes                      22% No

Question 4

Do you plan on becoming a voting citizen?

91% Yes                      9% No

Question 5

If so, how would you stay up to date with current issues?

- \*news on TV
- \*Internet
- \*newspaper
- \*other people
- \*radio

Question 6

If you use the Internet to stay informed, do you verify the information you read?

40% Yes                      60% No

#### Question 7

Would you be more interested in reading the newspaper if it contained more articles on younger society?

77% Yes                      23% No

#### Question 8

Is the newspaper beneficial to you for acquiring information?

52% Yes                      48% No

#### Question 9

Are you aware some papers are available online?

62% Yes                      38% No

#### Question 10

Do you have any suggestions on how to make the newspaper attract younger generations? If so, please explain.

- \*more sports
- \*more color
- \*more pictures
- \*latest fashion trends (or youth related)
- \*advice column
- \*technology/movies/games (reviews)
- \*horoscopes
- \*more comics (Peanuts – several requested this specific strip)
- \*youth directed articles
- \*consumer report type reviews (cars)
- \*interviews
- \*younger writers (more Junior Journalists)
- \*vary fonts throughout paper

#### Question 11

Are there any problems you have with finding certain information in the newspaper? If so please explain.

- \*make index larger/easier to read
- \*Classified section is confusing – too packed with small font
- \*Print too small

From the results of the survey, many students are still using the same resources for news as generations before them. However, technology is definitely becoming a wider choice for easy access of information. The results speak for both the interest in internet use and information, but with the majority lacking the interest or time to verify the information received.

The Poth Journalism Crew has unanimously agreed that with our growing society, a mix of credible print and technological versions of the newspaper would benefit most. This would allow older generations and programs such as NIE to continue with the benefits of the hands-on print version while the fast-paced technologically savvy members of society can have access to the news at the click of a button.