

In this digital age, do newspapers still have a role in your society?

In today's modernized world, with ~~much the ready~~ access to the internet, we are fed with the latest news that is happening around the world in real time. This is made possible with the online version of newspaper such as the Asia one, Straits Times, BBC and New York Times applications. Such tools that are available on the computer and on our mobile phones are very efficient in providing news to the people whereas, newspaper lack such efficiency. This is because there is a time lag where the articles needs to be edited and approved first before it can be published. However, despite the flaws of the traditional media, newspaper, there are about 86% of Singaporeans purchasing the Straits Times daily. Reasons could be because of its price as compared to other sources of media, being able to purchase the newspaper at almost any store and perhaps it has already become a part of the people's life to flip the newspaper every day. Therefore, newspaper does have a role in our society. [I think that the introduction paragraph is generally well structured but you need to clearly set out the points which you would be arguing in the next few paragraphs.]

First and foremost, newspapers ~~are is another source of information a ready source of information which is affordable to the public. where people of different classes are able to afford.~~ It is undeniably true that newspapers are relatively cheaper as compared to purchasing other devices such as a television, mobile phone, tablet or a computer. Although such devices has its other functions, it will be way too expensive to buy one just for leisure reading of the news, assuming that the person does not use its other utilities. Also, mobile phones and computers are not cheap. Hence, families who are not well to do may not be able to afford one and thus the only source available for them would be the newspaper which only cost about 90 cents each for the Straits Times. Therefore, ~~the~~ newspaper is another alternative source where many people can afford it, and this is perhaps especially catered for people who are less well to do. [I don't think the newspapers are priced in such a way that it "caters for people who are less well to do" – do you have any evidence on that? In my opinion it is priced cheaply for the general public's benefit, not in particular for people who are less well to do, you have to make a distinction here.]

Newspapers are being sold at all convenient stores such as Seven Eleven, ~~Mama shops~~ and even the markets. [On the 'convenience point', which is really more convenient, internet or going to a newspaper outlet to buy printed news? – Perhaps you could have dealt with the point that some newspapers in Singapore are given out free at convenient locations like just when exiting the MRT station at Raffles Place/City Hall for eg.] This gives easy access to people to purchase it before going to work as they do not need to specially find a specific store to grab a newspaper. Also, there are people giving out free Today papers at the Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) stations every morning. This allows both students and the working crowd to grab a copy

Comment [OS1]: Not necessary to list down the different platforms of the various online versions of newspaper. **REWRITE AS** "The connectivity and convenience which the internet brings now allows newspaper companies not only to circulate a print version but to reach out to its readers through its online platform on the web and mobile applications." Also note that this is newspapers in your society. Shouldn't mention about BBC and New York Times.

Comment [OS2]: Is this point to say that the print version of newspapers are more easily obtained as compared to the online version? What would be the basis? Wouldn't it be the case that it is easier to view the online version?

Comment [OS3]: Expression! **REWRITE AS** "flipping a print version of the newspapers is a daily habit of certain readers who did not grow up with the technology we now enjoy..."

Comment [OS4]: You have already mentioned about this point about mobile phones and computers not being cheap. No need to repeat.

Comment [OS5]: Please do NOT use this word.

of it. This shows how convenient it is for us Singaporeans to actually get a copy of a newspaper. Therefore, many people still read the traditional way of media despite having websites such as straitstimes.com. In addition, despite having a website, the Straits Times do not publish the whole article unless you subscribed to them. Hence, many people feel that it is better to just purchase it at a convenient store which explains the high percentage of people buying newspapers daily. [Just be careful because the question is about whether newspapers have a role in your society. You don't necessarily have to go on the general argument that because the majority 86% or so Singaporeans subscribe to newspapers then it has a role in your society. It can even be a situation that not many Singaporeans actually buy print newspapers but there is still a role for it to play in your society for other reasons...]

Singapore being an ageing population, we have a large percentage of elderly living in our country. Statistics ~~has have~~ shown that 74% of elderly have no clue on how to operate a computer or smart phone. Therefore, even with today's high technology with applications that can provide us with news at real time, this is redundant in the point of view of the elderly. Therefore, many of them still stick to the old method by reading the newspaper. We have to understand that it is not easy for the elderly to pick up technology as fast as the youngsters do. This is because their brain process things at a longer time as compared to the young. Hence, it takes a longer time for them to actually learn something. Thus, many elderly still choose to read the traditional newspaper as it is something they are familiar with. Therefore, the role of newspaper is to continue to serve this group of vulnerable people.

Comment [OS6]: This would not constitute as a topic sentence.

Comment [OS7]: Awkward phrasing. Factually right but would sound quite offensive.

However, it is true that the role of the newspaper did lose much of its significance as compared to the past. In those days where ~~print there are newspapers were the only newspaper only source of information~~ available to the public, people ~~have had~~ no choice but to purchase them ~~as that is their only source of information. to be updated with current affairs. But as time goes by, technology started to advance and more people were coming up websites that fulfils the role of a newspaper as well.~~ However with the advent of technology and the rise of the digital age, online news is becoming a more popular substitute in place of print media. Today, it is very common to see people reading the news on their smart phones or tablets through various applications. This shows that the newspaper did lose some of its supporters.

Furthermore, there is always a time lag from the time the incident happen to the time the papers are being published. This is because, the articles written needs to be thoroughly checked for grammatical errors and sensitive comments made by the author which may cause social cohesion. Therefore, whatever is on the newspaper, is never really the latest news. As for online newspapers, the articles that are being posted at real time and readers will be informed shortly after the incident. [some general exp. errors in this para.]

[At this point you have 3 points arguing that newspapers have a role and 2 points arguing that newspapers do not have a role, the 2 points were not rebutted or watered down sufficiently. In this case I won't know what is your stand now.]

In conclusion, newspapers definitely plays a significant role in our society due to the many supporters that it has. It not only allows people from the less well to do families to have a chance of knowing what is going on in the world, it also allow the elderly to continue to be informed about the news despite technology. Therefore, newspaper plays an important role in our society as it serves to give knowledge and information to many people around the world.