



Learning newspapers

■ WHAT IS IT?

[Press Pass](#) is a news literacy program that engages Irish teenagers by helping them learn [different writing styles](#). The program targets 16-year-olds, preparing them to enter a national contest. Retired editor [John Moore](#) called this “one of the better national youth news literacy programs,” similar to the US.-based [News Literacy Project](#). The course work is open to all students, who learn the role of newspapers in a free press while analyzing news stories.

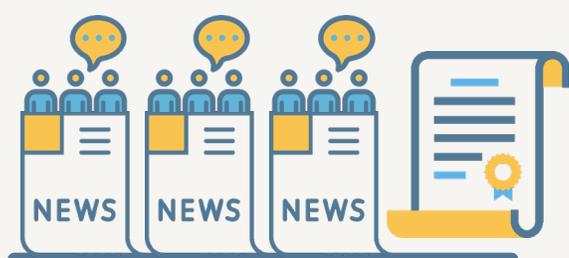
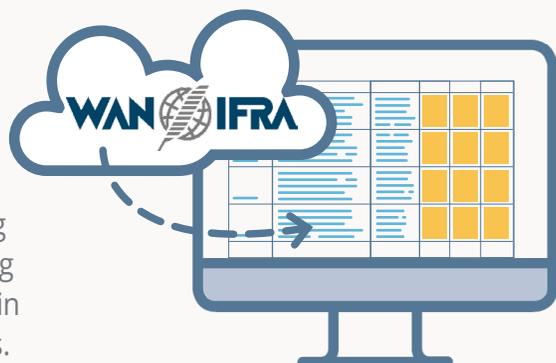


■ WHO'S BEHIND IT?

[National Newspapers of Ireland](#) (NNI), now known as [NewsBrands Ireland](#), and the [Department of Education](#) started the program in 2012. It was designed for students to “learn all about newspapers and the writing, analysis, preparation and photography that’s involved in putting one together.” [Twitter](#) and [The Irish League of Credit Unions](#) have sponsored the program. The project was tagged as “[notable](#)” by [Áine Kerr](#), co-founder of [NevaLabs](#).

■ DOES IT WORK?

[More than 10,000](#) transition-year students participated in 2018, and nearly 80,000 in the popular initiative’s first six years. A total of 255 schools (half of those eligible) [took part](#) the first year, and the number keeps growing. WAN-IFRA compiled a [database](#) noting the program checked eight of 13 news literacy categories (including doing production, simulation and learning how journalism works) in [Aralynn McMane’s](#) report about worldwide news-literacy practices.



■ HOW TO DO IT

This five-month-long program begins with [in-class studies](#), including a [workbook](#) to [guide](#) analysis of Ireland’s national newspapers. Teachers receive a guide for class discussion and students use newspapers in the classroom for study as they eventually attempt to create their own journalism to enter into a [national competition](#).