



## TUTORING

### Make the Most of Everyday Text

So many forms of text surround us in daily life—store signs and package labels, road maps and VCR manuals. You can take some of this everyday text out of its usual setting and bring it into the classroom to use in learning activities. The following are just a few of the ways you can do this.

#### **The Phone Book: One Heck of a Thick Textbook**

The phone book may not be an edge-of-your-seat thriller, but you can find a lot of good stuff inside, especially if you're trying to help students get better acquainted with the city or town where they live.

##### ► **The Local Scene**

Many phone books contain sections with all sorts of information about the local area. For example, you might find:

- descriptions of points of interest, including historic sites. Discuss with students what they can learn about local history just from reading these descriptions.
- a listing of library locations. Help students figure out which libraries are closest to their homes.
- a city map. Practice map reading with students. Ask them to write directions for getting from one part of the city to another. Teach the spelling of street names.
- diagrams of local performance centers and stadiums. Check out where the best seats are. Ask questions based on diagram details. Examples: What sections of the arena border State Street? If you're sitting in section 7, where's the nearest door?

##### ► **The Nitty-Gritty**

Of course, it's helpful to make sure students are well acquainted with the ordinary yet essential ways to use the phone book. You might try preparing a phone book scavenger hunt. Make a list of questions that students must go to the phone book to answer. You might ask questions like: What's the phone number of your bank? What's the name of the first person listed under C in the Residence Listings? How many companies are listed under *Flag Poles* in the Yellow Pages?

##### ► **Charting Information**

Have students make a simple chart to organize information they will gather through phone calls to businesses. Plan to have them call five local hotels. (If students have an actual need for other information, they can call appropriate businesses instead of hotels.) Ask students to make a grid. They should write the hotel name at the top of the first column. They can label the other columns with such headings as *Phone Number*, *Address*, *Room Cost Per Night*, *Checkout Time*, *Swimming Pool*, and *Cable TV*. As they make their phone calls, they can fill in details for each hotel.

