Newspapers have 4 basic functions – to inform, to interpret the news, to provide a service to readers, and to entertain. These functions explain what the newspaper does, and they are why people read it.

Newspapers help readers become informed citizens and make better decisions by providing lots of facts. Hard news stories, vital statistics, weather, sports stories and scores, and event calendars are examples of items that help inform readers.

Some newspaper articles help interpret, or explain, the meaning of news to readers. These stories often include the opinion of the writer or newspaper management. Editorials, opinion columns, news analysis, and reviews are some examples.

Newspaper stories provide information that helps readers solve their business, home, recreation, and daily living problems. Ads assist in informing readers about products and services. Hard news stories, feature stories, classified ads, and display ads are items that provide a service.

Some items in the newspaper are designed to amuse or provide enjoyment to readers. Feature stories, comics, puzzles, and humor columns are entertainment items.

To inform, to interpret, to provide a service, and to entertain are the 4 basic functions of a newspaper. Did you know that there were so many important reasons for reading a newspaper? Can you think of more?