

How to write a newspaper article

Purpose: To inform and entertain the reader. A newspaper article should deliver a story in a way that gives all the information but also engages them. The main aim is to inform so your writing should not be too personal. Maintain a formal style, avoid using 'I' and try to appear objective. You can, however, show your own bias with the clever use of vocabulary and other techniques.

Structure:

Headline: This should catch the reader's attention (headlines often use alliteration or word-play) and suit the tone of your article (humorous, serious, factual etc.)

Paragraph 1: Introduce the event giving the key information: What, when, who, where

Paragraph 2: Why, how- Give more detail on exactly how the event happened and what the cause was.

Paragraph 3: Include more background details on what happened before the event in order to give your reader a better idea of what led to it.

Paragraph 4: An interview or quotes giving someone's opinion on the event; this could be someone directly related to the story or some sort of respected or expert opinion.

Paragraph 5: Look to the future; what is the impact of this event? What are your predictions for what might happen next?

TECHNIQUES:

Connectives:

Adding- In addition, furthermore, moreover, what's more, including

Summing up- Overall, in conclusion, ultimately, in the end

Contrasting- But, however, although, nevertheless, on the other hand

Sentence Starters:

Firstly, Secondly, Shockingly, Disappointingly, Amazingly, Finally etc

Punctuation:

BRACKETS- To show a comment/extra detail not required for the main sentence *e.g. The victim (17 years old) was from South London.*

QUESTION MARK- To show a rhetorical question, used to engage the reader *e.g. Will the games live up to all the hype and expectation?*

SEMI-COLON- To link two separate sentences which follow from each other (can be used instead of an adding connective) *e.g. The tickets were £200; many young fans simply couldn't afford to go.*

COLON- To signify a list *e.g. Fan's favourite events were: the long jump, 100 metre sprint, pole vault.*

Vocabulary: Avoid boring words try to be adventurous!

Other journalistic techniques

A- Alliteration

F- Facts/Figurative language (similes, metaphors etc)

O- Opinion

R- Repetition/rhetorical questions

E- Exaggeration/emotive language (vocab that gets an emotional reaction from the reader)

S- Statistics

T- Triples (a list of three different adjectives used for effect)

DON'T FORGET LITERACY!

Have you used...

- ✓ Correct spelling?
- ✓ Full sentences?
- ✓ Paragraphs?
- ✓ Punctuation?

Remember, your editor will have to check your work, and they won't like it if they find lots of errors!