Writing a Great Newspaper Report



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Learning Objective

To know how to write newspaper reports.

Learning Objective

- To understand the structural features of a newspaper report.
- To understand the language features of a newspaper report.

Beginning

- **Choose an interesting event to write about.**

- **Have a short and snappy first paragraph that briefly explains what happened.** This needs to contain key information, so that even if the reader stopped reading after this, they will still know roughly what happened.

- **Keep your most important information near the top of the report.** If the report ends up being too long, then the less important information can be cut out from the bottom of it.



Filling Out Your Report

- **Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?**
  Make sure you answer these six questions!

- Keep your sentences short and punchy, so that it doesn't become boring.

- **Check** your **spelling** and **facts**!

- Having quotes from sources will make your report more credible and interesting. Include an interview if you wish!

Language Features of a Newspaper Report

Make sure you include these language features in your newspaper report:

- **Headline**
  The headline should grab the reader's attention. It could use puns (a play on words) or alliteration.
- **Third person**
  E.g. he, she, they, them, it.
- **Past tense**
  Newspaper articles are normally an example of a **recount text**. They are written in the past tense as the event has already taken place.

Language Features of a Newspaper Report

- **Facts**
  Information should be presented as being factually accurate.
- **Opinions**
  A newspaper report may express the views of individuals, especially through the use of quotes. It should not usually express the personal opinions of the person writing the newspaper report.
- **Quotes**
  Victims, witnesses and experts may provide quotes for newspaper reports. These can be written as direct or indirect speech
- **Rhetorical Questions**
  Rhetorical questions can be used to engage the reader, e.g. How much longer can this go on for?

Structural Features of a Newspaper Report

Make sure you include these structural features in your newspaper report:

- **Headline**
  This should be larger and bolder than the rest of the newspaper report so that it grabs the reader's attention.
- **First Paragraph**
  This should clearly summarise the whole newspaper article. It should be larger and bolder than the main text of the newspaper report.
- **Image and caption**
  The image (e.g. a photograph or diagram) should grab the reader's attention. There should be a caption underneath to describe the image.

Structural Features of a Newspaper Report

Make sure you include these structural features in your newspaper report:

- **Paragraphs**
  The newspaper report should be organised into paragraphs to help the reader make sense of the story.
- **Sub-headings**
  Short titles will tell the reader about what that paragraph or section of text will be about.
- **Columns**
  Newspaper reports can be written in columns.
- **Concluding Statement**
  A concluding statement can sum up the story. Sometimes they can offer an opinion about the story.

And Finally...

Make sure your headline is amazing!

It must grab people's attention as this is what makes people want to read your report!

MAN PUNCHES CROCODILE!

SPACESHIP SEEN FLYING OVER BUCKINGHAM PALACE

"MY NEIGHBOUR ATE MY RABBIT"





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