

Lede Writing Practice

Write a lede for a story that has the following 5Ws.

1. Who: members of the student council
2. What: will eat banana splits
3. Where: at their meeting in Room 202
4. When: last meeting of the year, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday
5. Why: treat from officers for the hard work the council has done

REMEMBER! A lede is the opening sentence or paragraph of a news article, summarizing the most important aspects of the story. It includes the 5 Ws (What, Who, Where, When, Why)

Create Your Own Lede

"The Lead": The most important info

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

Approximately 30 words (1-2 thin paragraphs)

May include a "hook" (provocative quote or question)

"The Body": The crucial info

Argument, Controversy, Story, Issue

Evidence, background, details, logic, etc.

Quotes, photos, video, and audio that
support, dispute, expand the topic

"The Tail": extra info

Interesting/Related items

May include extra context

In blogs, columns, and
other editorials: the
assessment of the
journalist

Your First News Story

Today, you will be writing your first news story. We are going to start out easy, by reporting on something that has happened in your life.

Before you begin writing, I want you to brainstorm a list of **newsworthy** things that have happened in your life. Try to think of 4-5 events that would be interesting enough to be in a news article. Then, narrow it down to 1-2 topics.

Writing Your Article

After you've chosen your topic, outline your article with the 5Ws. Tell me the what, who, when, where, why or your event.

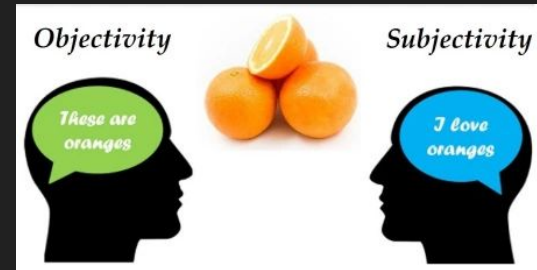
Now that you've outlined your event, write a short (about three paragraphs) article about the event using the inverted pyramid style. Remember to start out with the most important information and end with the least important information. You are not telling this story in **chronological order**, but in **order of importance**!

Writing the News Story

Accuracy - Above all, what a reported writes should be accurate. The facts must be checked and double-checked. The spelling of names and the identification of the people must be checked and rechecked.



Objectivity - Reporters report facts. They must be careful to maintain objectivity - that is, to report only facts, not their own opinions. The reporter's personal views and values should not be part of a news story.



Writing the News Story

Point of View - reporters also demonstrate objectivity through point of view. News should be written from a third person point of view with no first or second person pronouns such as I, we, or you. A story with third person point of view is written as though the writer is standing back, watching people in action and writing a description of it.

Readability - Because most newspaper readers want to be able to read and understand the news quickly, reporters write in ways that make news easy to read. Short sentences and short paragraphs make news appear inviting and easy to read.

Exit Ticket

Turn in your article for your exit ticket today. We will need these articles for our next class!

