

Writing a News Article

Name: _____ Date: _____

Teachers' Guide to the Unit

This unit is intended to familiarize students with some of the basic skills required to write news articles. Students will learn about the structure of news articles, and will practice writing, editing, and critiquing news articles.

Activity	Description/Notes on Use
p. 2 <i>Before You Begin</i>	<i>Brief questionnaire to find out students' current ideas about news articles. Collect these questionnaires, and save them. At the end of the unit, give the same questionnaire, and allow the students to compare their answers to see their progress.</i>
p. 3 <i>Main Elements of a News Article</i>	<i>Brief description of the main components of news articles. After the students have read this description, present them with several articles clipped from a local newspaper, and ask them to identify the five elements.</i>
p. 4 <i>Headline News</i>	<i>Students read through a number of headlines and supporting statements and match the headline to the appropriate supporting paragraph.</i>
p. 5 <i>Putting it in its Place</i>	<i>Students read through the mixed-up sentences of an article and identify the headline, byline, and sentences of the lead and supporting paragraphs, in order to reconstruct the original article. After students have completed the task, take several articles from a local paper. Black out the headlines, and ask students to compose their own headlines.</i>
p. 6 <i>Goals of a News Article</i>	<i>Description of some basic principles of journalism.</i>
p. 7 <i>Fact or Opinion?</i>	<i>Students read through a list of statements and identify them as fact or opinion. They then identify the 'clues' that helped them decide. After completing the task, ask students to help compose a list of the kinds of words that are found in opinion statements, and write the lists up on the board. (adjectives such as beautiful, ugly, etc.)</i>
p. 8 <i>Fit to Print?</i>	<i>Students identify statements as being written in a journalistic style, or a narrative style.</i>
p. 9 <i>The Target Audience</i>	<i>Students read through articles, and determine if the news should be considered local, state, national, or international news. This activity requires a selection of newspaper articles, preferably taken from at least two different publications. Before class, cut out enough articles so that each student or pair of students will have five or six.</i>
p. 10 <i>Sequencing Supporting Details</i>	<i>Students read through a series of un-ordered statements, and reorder them to form the news article.</i>
p. 11 <i>Model Behavior</i>	<i>Students read through newspaper articles, and extract the basic elements of the story. Students examine articles to see how well they adhere to the guidelines of journalism. This activity requires at least one newspaper article per student/pair of students.</i>
p. 12 <i>News Article Rubric</i>	<i>This rubric is intended to be used in conjunction with the exercise 'Model Behavior'. After students have completed the activity, hand out this rubric and ask students to 'grade' the articles.</i>
p. 13 <i>Edit the Editor</i>	<i>Students read over a news article, and edit it for mistakes in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.</i>
p. 14 <i>Creative Writing</i>	<i>Students read about tabloids, and using prompts, practice writing a tabloid article of their own. Before the lesson, prepare a selection of photographs from magazines. After students have read the information about tabloids, allow them to select one photograph apiece. Students use the photographs as 'prompts to compose their own fantastic tabloid article. Optional Activity: Have students 'publish' a tabloid with their articles.</i>
p. 15 <i>What Have You Learned?</i>	<i>Self-evaluation. This is the same questionnaire students took at the beginning of the unit. After they have finished answering the questions, hand back the versions they took at the beginning so they can see their progress.</i>
p. 16 <i>Quiz</i>	<i>Short quiz to test basic comprehension of materials covered. Allow 15 minutes.</i>

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Before You Begin

You are going to study a bit about the way newspaper articles are written. First, find out what you already know about the news. Read each of the following statements, and decide whether or not you agree with it. In the space provided, write 'T' for true, or 'F' for false.

- _____ 1. News articles are only written about disasters, wars, and other catastrophic events.
- _____ 2. Newspapers print articles that are of interest to readers.
- _____ 3. News articles can use quotes and opinions from witnesses and observers.
- _____ 4. News articles are error-proof.
- _____ 5. If the information is not in the 'lead', or introductory, paragraph, it is not important.
- _____ 6. The purpose of news articles is to inform, not to entertain.
- _____ 7. News articles are not enjoyable to read.
- _____ 8. The lead of a news article answers the 5w-1h questions. (who, what, when, where, why, and how)
- _____ 9. The style of a news article is narrative, like a story.
- _____ 10. News articles contain dialogue.
- _____ 11. News articles often contain imaginative details or elements of fantasy.
- _____ 12. A caption is a short piece of text which contains a summary of a news article.
- _____ 13. All news articles are accompanied by pictures.
- _____ 14. 'Headings' or 'headlines', are long, detailed, complete sentences.
- _____ 15. Locations that are well known do not have to include states.
- _____ 16. If news articles have mistakes, corrections have to be published.
- _____ 17. A news article can sometimes be made up of only a lead paragraph, and still adequately cover the information.
- _____ 18. News articles use a lot of descriptive language
- _____ 19. News articles basically follow the same structure as an essay because they are both informative.
- _____ 20. The skills and techniques used to write news articles, which are non-fiction, and stories, which are fiction, are completely different.

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Main Elements of a News Article

There are certain elements that are common to almost all articles that you will read in the newspaper or find on the Internet. The following list explains the five major components, or parts, of a news article.

- **Headline (Heading)**

The headline is the title of the news article. The headline should be short, does not include a lot of detail, and should catch the readers' attentions. It is normally not a complete sentence, and tries to summarize the main idea or subject of the article. It is often printed in larger letters than the rest of the article, and the major words are capitalized.

- **Byline**

This line tells who is writing the article. It may also include the address of the author and the publication or news source for which he or she writes.

- **Location**

This is usually placed at the beginning of the article in bold print. If the city or location is well-known, the name can be written alone, but if the city is less famous, more information is included. For example, the byline of an article written in Atlanta, Georgia would read '*Atlanta*', while an article from Leary, Georgia would have to include the name of the state.

- **Lead Paragraph(s)**

The lead paragraph is found at the beginning of the article. The lead briefly answers the questions "who", "what", "when", "why", "where", and "how". The 'skeleton' of the story can be found here.

- **Supporting Paragraph(s)**

These are the paragraphs which follow the lead. They develop the ideas introduced by the lead, and give more information in the form of explanations, details, or quotes. In many newspapers, these paragraphs are found on subsequent pages.

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Headline News

Match the headline with the correct lead paragraph.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts Strikes a Pose • Santa's Clause isn't Complete • Capital of Letter is Lost • Reading Turns to Writing • Sentences Use Incorrect Language 	<p>_____</p> <p>Officials in the town of Letter were panicked last week to discover that a large portion of their funds for the coming year are missing. "We received the monthly statement from the bank, and the money just isn't there," stated city councilor Ellen Lathem. The money was raised by local residents, and was destined to be used to build a new swimming pool. "It goes without saying, without the capital we can't build the pool," mourned fellow councilor David Rosenthal. An investigation has been launched to track down the missing money.</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Dozens of parents led their toddlers away from Lafayette mall on Sunday, disappointed by the absence of Santa Claus. The mall had hired Peter Volcek to play the part of the jolly holiday figure, but at the last minute, were informed that building codes did not permit the construction of the temporary 'Santa Land' stage. Several children expressed concern about Santa's health, and were reassured by mall officials that, "Santa is fine, he's just taking a break." The absence of Santa is a serious setback for the mall, which opened only last week.</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>Mr. Jordan Bates, an English teacher at Kennedy High School, is the star of the newest exhibit at the local art museum. The exhibit is entitled "Teachers on the Weekends," and features photographs of teachers fishing, having picnics, and doing grocery shopping. Ms. Sandra Graham, the artist who prepared the show, was unavailable for comment.</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>George Smallton, the editor of the Jonesbury Times, was shocked to see his paper Tuesday morning. Since he had last seen it Monday night, something very strange had happened: the paper had switched languages. Headlines that had read "New School in Town" now read "Neue Schule in der Stadt." Mr. Smallton has apologized to the community for the confusion, and has promised to work hard to discover the cause of the mix-up.</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>The residents of the small town of Reading, Anystate, are tired of waiting for the state to fund road repairs. Irritated at being forgotten in the capital, the inhabitants have started a letter writing campaign. Sent to the governor and the state legislators, the letters describe the terrible condition of the Reading roads, and request money to fix them. "If they won't pay attention to us, we'll just have to make them!" explained local resident Margaret Hickman.</p>

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Putting a Sentence in Its Place

The following page contains an article about a group of middle school students. Unfortunately, the sentences have been mixed up. Read through the list, and on the line next to each statement, indicate the part of the article in which it should appear. (headline, lead, etc.) Once you have identified each sentence, go back through and order the statements to form the original story.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | 1. Seventh Graders Tell the News |
| _____ | 2. Anytown, USA |
| _____ | 3. Many other eyewitnesses were impressed by the students' motivation and enthusiasm. |
| _____ | 4. On Monday, one thousand seventh graders argued and debated the issue of how to deliver the news appropriately. |
| _____ | 5. Sources indicate that the school children were inspired to organize the debate by their English teacher, Ms. Garcia. |
| _____ | 6. Although the class was a lot of work, the students are proud of what they accomplished, and are glad they had the opportunity to learn a little about journalism. |
| _____ | 7. The debate on proper journalistic writing techniques took place at an undisclosed local middle school. |
| _____ | 8. Local bookstore owner Shelley Mann praised this event as a "wake-up call for the whole community." She confessed, "I certainly hope this epidemic continues!" |
| _____ | 9. Police chief Michael Jones added, "That teacher should be encouraged as much as possible. It really benefits the entire community, and not just her students." |
| _____ | 10. Ms. Garcia is currently advising other teachers at the middle school on ways they can introduce newspapers into their classrooms. |
| _____ | 11. Pen E. Flows, Writing Journal Associated |
| _____ | 12. The certified and highly qualified teacher was not available for comment. |
| _____ | 13. It has been suggested that she may be currently overwhelmed by an overabundance of writing assignments to grade before the end of the semester. |
| _____ | 14. Ms. Garcia has been teaching English for twenty-four years, but has only recently introduced a unit on journalism into her classes. |
| _____ | 15. The students all give the credit for their work to the influence of their teacher, who encouraged them to help spread the news. |
| _____ | 16. She created the unit in the hopes of raising student awareness about different styles of writing. |
| _____ | 17. The seventh-graders independently designed projects to test the effectiveness of several different styles of reporting. |
| _____ | 18. A former student of Ms. Garcia's was interviewed and stated, "She's the best and deserves a big prize! She opened my eyes to reporting the facts." |
| _____ | 19. A movie and book deal on the inspirational teacher is allegedly in the making. |
| _____ | 20. Studies show that reading the news frequently helps people learn to write informative articles. |

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The Goals of a News Article

Most journalists (the people who write news articles) try to follow certain guidelines in their work. These principles of journalism help make sure that when people open a newspaper, they can believe what they read.

1. A news article tells the truth: the journalist writes facts that are, to the best of his/her knowledge, true. A careful journalist only states things that he/she can prove to be true, and will 'cite' the source of any uncertain information.

example: *"According to Mrs. Brown, principal of North Oaks High School, most high school freshmen take Spanish as a second language."*

In the statement above, even if it is later discovered that more high school freshmen take French instead of Spanish, the journalist has not lied. He/she has only claimed that Mrs. Brown says more freshmen take Spanish, which is still a true statement.

2. News is factual. Something that is factual can be proved or disproved. For example, "Last Saturday was a rainy day," is a factual statement, because it can be clearly shown that last Saturday either was or was not rainy. "Rainy days are depressing," is not a factual statement, because it is a personal opinion.
3. News articles are objective. They do not reflect the personal opinions of the journalist. Quotes and opinions of witnesses and observers to events may be included in an article, but they must be cited.
4. News articles relate information that affects or is of interest to the public. Some newspapers print articles that are of interest to a smaller audience. When the audience is concentrated in a particular region, such as a particular city or state, the newspaper is known as a 'local' paper.
5. The purpose of a news article is to report the facts of a current event or problem. Although many people enjoy reading the news, the purpose of a news article is not entertainment.
6. The language used in news articles is often different from the language that is used in everyday conversation, or in stories or narratives. The style of writing is impersonal, and the vocabulary is often more formal.

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Fact or Opinion?

Read the following statements, and decide if the statement is expressing a fact or an opinion. Write 'fact' or 'opinion' on the line provided. Underline the word or words that indicate a statement is an opinion.

- _____ 1. Commas are the hardest type of punctuation mark to study.
- _____ 2. Twenty percent of the punctuation marks in an average book will be commas.
- _____ 3. On Tuesday, the 7th of October, the talented English teacher presented the punctuation rules to the committee.
- _____ 4. Professor Knowitall presented evidence to support the rules of punctuation in a forum last Tuesday.
- _____ 5. The English language is studied in many regions of the world.
- _____ 6. The English language is the most difficult language to study in the world.
- _____ 7. During a heated debate, several grammarians who had proposed a change in traditional rules of punctuation were unjustly criticized by the old-fashioned grammarians on the board of directors.
- _____ 8. Developments of new learning strategies are being proposed in a new language book entitled *I Need Some Help Please!*
- _____ 9. The book contains some of the worst explanations around.
- _____ 10. Some critics of the book argue that its contents may be inaccurate.
- _____ 11. Reports show that less than fifty percent of high-school students read at an advanced level.
- _____ 12. In a lovely classroom in South Carolina, the young teacher is applying her new skills to teach her language classes about grammar.

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Fit to Print? Making Information News-Worthy

News articles use language that is more formal than that used in everyday conversation. Read over the following statements, and decide if the statement is 'news-worthy', or if it is written in a narrative style. After deciding, write 'news' or 'story' on the provided lines.

- | | | |
|-------|-----|--|
| _____ | 1. | One day while a girl was walking, she came upon two people fighting. |
| _____ | 2. | Some families were at the mall the other day and saw a couple of people taking things from a store. |
| _____ | 3. | The case has been unsolved and the suspects are still at large. |
| _____ | 4. | According to a recent survey, a majority of the inhabitants believe the dairy plant is polluting the local water supply. |
| _____ | 5. | The kids formed a new club for after-school students. |
| _____ | 6. | One time, there were these students at the school who were in a bus wreck. |
| _____ | 7. | The committee unanimously voted to suspend him until a thorough investigation could be organized. |
| _____ | 8. | A number of years ago, the president of the club was a rock-climber. |
| _____ | 9. | Last week I saw a really amazing thing. I was watching TV and I saw a show about a ninety year-old man who was running a marathon. |
| _____ | 10. | The guy got a ticket the other day for running a red light, and then not stopping when the policeman turned on his sirens. |
| _____ | 11. | The police questioned several witnesses on Friday in an attempt to determine the cause of the accident. |
| _____ | 12. | Have you ever heard of the Dead Sea? Well, if you haven't it is the most gorgeous and bizarre body of water. |
| _____ | 13. | In a land far away, two beautiful people were wed, and hundreds of people threw flowers and sang. |
| _____ | 14. | The victim is a candidate in the city council elections to be held this fall. |
| _____ | 15. | The effects of the acid rain have destroyed thousands of acres of crops. |
| _____ | 16. | While visiting the broken-down farmhouse, I found a delicate glass container that was worth a lot of money. |
| _____ | 17. | I told the reporter that a funny looking man was making faces so the kids would laugh at him. |
| _____ | 18. | I'm not sure why Kate said it. She really couldn't have been thinking clearly. |
| _____ | 19. | The cause of the mishap is still under investigation, and police have refused to issue a statement. |
| _____ | 20. | During a press conference on Friday, authorities declined to comment regarding the incriminating evidence. |

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The Target Audience

News articles are written to target the interest of its readers. Many newspapers are distributed or sold only in certain geographical areas, and print articles that are interesting to the residents of their particular area. Information regarding the new high school in San Francisco is unlikely to be of interest to a reader in Nashville, Tennessee, so a Nashville newspaper may decide not to print that article. Some newspapers, however, are distributed across a large area, and are read by people who live on opposite sides of the country. Newspapers must decide how large their audience is, and if a news article contains information that will benefit or be of interest to the readers.

The chart below will help you organize news articles into the appropriate categories. Look at the headlines below, and decide which column would be most appropriate for each. After you have organized these headlines, your teacher will give you several articles from the newspaper. Read the articles and write the headlines in the appropriate columns.

Family Reunion Turns into Fundraising for Local Library

LEADERS OF THE FREE WORLD MEET IN MADRID

Taxes in the State of South Carolina to Increase by 10%

Leak in Trans-continental Gas Line Causes Panic

Local	State	Nation	International/World

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Sequencing Supporting Details

Read through the following statements, and number them so that they form a logical story. Using a separate sheet of paper, copy the sentences out, adding transition words if necessary, to recreate the article that accompanies the headline “Students Caught in Mystifying Case”.

- _____ 1. The first reports indicate that on March 17, 2004, two unidentified students were caught holding and reading various textbooks and novels.
- _____ 2. Although the case remains unsolved, the community is keeping close watch on the students to determine the cause of this learning experience.
- _____ 3. According to numerous eyewitness reports, a major and shocking occurrence has happened in the community of Readalot, Pencilvania.
- _____ 4. An official investigation was launched yesterday to determine the truth about this matter.
- _____ 5. Since the investigation was announced, several witnesses have come forward to give testimony.
- _____ 6. Statistics show that only twenty-two percent of American adolescents read voluntarily.
- _____ 7. One parent’s comment was, “It couldn’t have been my child! My son is an underachiever, and only watches TV or plays video games. Someone must have forced those poor kids. I’m sure it wasn’t their fault.”
- _____ 8. The community is in disbelief that local children would independently do such a thing.
- _____ 9. The adolescents, both students at a local middle school, were not in class at the time.
- _____ 10. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of this strange and unexplained event.
- _____ 11. Next week, a town meeting will be held to discuss the likelihood of future reoccurrences. Contact the local Reading Renegade Association for further information.
- _____ 12. The names of the suspects have not been released, and they have not been interviewed. Their parents, however, have been contacted.

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Model Behavior

The best way to develop an understanding of the way news articles are written is to read the news. The articles in the newspaper will expose you to the language and format, or structure, of a well-written news article. Published news articles are not perfect, however, and sometimes contain mistakes, misquotes, or opinions. Using an article from the newspaper, complete the following chart. (Some articles may not contain all the elements.) Can you find any mistakes?

Headline:
Author or News Source:
Subject Matter:
Target Audience:
5W-1H Questions in Lead:
Who/What:
When:
Where:
Why:
How:
Supporting Paragraph(s) Summary:
Eyewitness Accounts/Quotes:
Other Supporting Evidence:
Embedded Biases/Opinions:
Misprints/Convention Errors:

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Newspaper Article Rubric

This rubric will help you decide how well the article you have read follows the guidelines of journalism. Read through the descriptions, and decide which best applies to your article.

# of Points:	CONTENT AND STYLE	FORMAT	CONVENTIONS
3	The article presents factual information, and no opinions. It answers the 5w-1H questions. It contains relevant details, and the writing style is clear, using journalistic language.	The article has a headline/title. The information is presented in the form of a lead paragraph, followed by supporting paragraphs.	There are few or no errors in grammar punctuation, or spelling.
2	The article presents some facts and some opinions. It answers some of the 5w-1H questions. Most details are relevant, and the tone varies between narrative and journalistic.	The headline/title is not written effectively. Attempts were made to present the information in correct form and order.	There are several errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling, but they do not hinder comprehension.
1	The article presents few facts and more opinions. It fails to answer a majority of the 5w-1H questions. It contains irrelevant details and is written in a narrative style.	Headline/title is missing or inaccurate. Little or no attempts made to follow news article format or sequencing of information.	There are numerous errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling that make it difficult to understand the article.

Add up the points for your article. The total number of points is your article's 'grade'. Descriptions of the grades are written below.

9-8 points
7-5 points

A strong, well-written article.
An acceptable article.

4-1points A very weak article.

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Edit the Editor

The following article contains mistakes in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Using editing marks, correct the article.

Students Caught in Mystifying Case

By news Reporter

Readalot pencilvania – According to numerous eywitnes report a major and shocking occurrence has happened in the communnity of readingalot pencilvania. The first reports indicates that on march 17, 2004, two unidentified students were caught holding and reading various textbooks and novles. An Oficial Investigation was lunched Yesterday to determine the truth about this matter. Since the investigation was anounced several witneses have come forward to give testimony. One parents comment was It could'nt have been my child my son is an underachiever and only watches tv or plays video games someone must have forced those poor kids. I'm sure it wasn't their fault.

Statistics show that only twentytwo percent of american adolesents read volunteerily.. The communnity is in disbalief that local children would independantly do such a thing! The names of the suspects have not been released, and they have not been interviewed their parents however have been contacted. The Adolescents, both students at a local Middle School, were not in class at the time. An investigation is under-way to determine the cause of this strange and unexplained event.

Next week, a Town Meeting will be held to discuss the likelihood of future reoccurrences. Contact the local Reading renegade association for further information. Although the case remains unsolved the communnity is keeping closewatch on the students to determine the cause of this learning experience.

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Creative Writing

Writing for the Tabloids

Most newspapers can be classified into two major groups: 'broadsheets' and 'tabloids'. Broadsheets are literally printed on larger sheets of paper, and generally contain more serious articles. Tabloids are often smaller in size, and contain articles that often include imaginative details or interpretations. Although the evidence for many tabloid articles is scanty or non-existent, they are written in a convincing tone similar to that used in standard news articles. Tabloids have to be very careful when writing about real people, because they can be accused of 'libel', or writing harmful lies.

Writing a Tabloid Article

- Your teacher will provide you with an assortment of photographs taken from magazines or newspapers. Select a photograph that appeals to you.
- Create a story based around the photograph. Remember that for the tabloids, no story is too strange.
- Using the checklist provided, draft your article. The key to a successful tabloid article is the use of standard journalistic techniques combined with unbelievable details. Remember: your job is to make the impossible sound believable.

News Article Checklist

- **Headline**
- **Byline**
- **Location**
- **Lead**
 - *State the date or time the incident happened/will happen.*
 - *State who or what is affected by the incident.*
 - *Write a description of the place where this event takes place.*
 - *Explain in short detail what happened.*
 - *Include any known causes for the event.*
 - *Briefly explain how the event happened/will happen.*
 - *List the names of any other people or events directly affected the incident.*
 - *After the drafting the lead, check to make sure you have answered the 5W-1H questions.*
- **Supporting Paragraphs** (Include any of the following information)
 - *Quotes*
 - *Witness accounts*
 - *Supporting details*
 - *Description of the possible effects on the public*
- **Photos** (Optional)
 - *If you wish to accompany your article with a photograph, compose a caption that explains the relationship of the photograph to your article.*

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What Have You Learned?

You've already taken this survey once, but you may be surprised to see how your answers have changed. Respond to the statements, writing 'T' for true, or 'F' for false on the lines provided. When you have finished, your teacher will give you the version you answered at the beginning of the unit, so you can see what you've learned.

- _____ 1. News articles are only written about disasters, wars, and other catastrophic events.
- _____ 2. Newspapers print articles that are of interest to its readers.
- _____ 3. News articles can use quotes and opinions from witnesses and observers.
- _____ 4. News articles are error-proof.
- _____ 5. If the information is not in the 'lead' or introductory paragraph, it is not important.
- _____ 6. The purpose of news articles is to inform, not to entertain.
- _____ 7. News articles are not enjoyable to read.
- _____ 8. The lead of a news article answers the 5w-1h questions. (who, what, when, where, why, and how)
- _____ 9. The style of a news article is narrative, like a story.
- _____ 10. News articles contain dialogue.
- _____ 11. News articles often contain imaginative details or elements of fantasy.
- _____ 12. News articles often include quote from witnesses or people related to the story.
- _____ 13. All news articles are accompanied by pictures.
- _____ 14. 'Headings' or 'headlines', are long, detailed, complete sentences.
- _____ 15. Locations that are well known do not have to include states.
- _____ 16. If news articles have mistakes, corrections have to be published.
- _____ 17. A news article can sometimes be made up of only a lead paragraph, and still adequately cover the information.
- _____ 18. News articles try to inform the reader of the personal opinions of the journalist.
- _____ 19. News articles follow the same format as argumentative essays.
- _____ 20. The skills and techniques used to write news articles, which are non-fiction, and stories, which are fiction, are completely different.

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News Article Quiz

I. Decide if the following statements are true or false. Write 'T' or 'F' on the line provided.

- _____ 1. The purpose of news articles is to report events in a factual manner.
- _____ 2. News articles aim to be subjective, or biased.
- _____ 3. News articles print what is of interest to the general public.
- _____ 4. A news article normally does not include a lead paragraph.
- _____ 5. The first paragraph of a news article gives descriptive details and often includes quotes from eyewitnesses.
- _____ 6. The headline of a news article is usually a descriptive sentence which gives details about an event.
- _____ 7. A lead answers the questions 'who', 'what', 'when', 'why', 'where', and 'how'.
- _____ 8. News articles use descriptive, vivid language intended to appeal to the reader's imagination.

II. Match the parts of a news article to their descriptions.

<i>headline</i>	<i>byline</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>lead</i>	<i>supporting paragraphs</i>
-----------------	---------------	-----------------	-------------	------------------------------

- _____ 1. Gives the name of the author, or the publication that employs the author.
- _____ 2. Paragraph or paragraphs which briefly answer the 5w-1h questions and inform the reader of the main details of the news article.
- _____ 3. A short, 'catchy' summary of the main idea of the news article.
- _____ 4. Paragraph or paragraphs which give supporting details in the form of quotes, or explanations.
- _____ 5. Tells where the event took place.

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Answer Guide

p. 2 Before You Begin

Answers not required.

p. 4 Headline News

Order of correct headlines from left to right:

Capital of Letter is Lost
Santa's Clause isn't Complete
Language Arts Strikes a Pose
Sentences Use Incorrect Language
Reading Turns to Writing

p. 5 Putting it in its Place

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. headline | 11. byline |
| 2. location | 12. supporting paragraph |
| 3. supporting paragraph | 13. supporting paragraph |
| 4. lead | 14. lead |
| 5. lead | 15. lead |
| 6. supporting paragraph | 16. lead |
| 7. lead | 17. supporting paragraph |
| 8. supporting paragraph | 18. supporting paragraph |
| 9. supporting paragraph | 19. supporting paragraph |
| 10. supporting paragraph | 20. supporting paragraph |

Possible Article Sequence:

(Answers may vary—accept all reasonable sequences.)

Lead Paragraph: 4, 7, 5, 14, 16, 17, 15, 6

Supporting Paragraphs: 20, 8, 9, 3, 18, 12, 13, 10, 19

p. 7 Fact or Opinion?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. opinion; hardest | 7. opinion; unjustly/ old- |
| 2. fact | fashioned |
| 3. opinion; talented | 8. fact |
| 4. fact | 9. opinion; worst |
| 5. fact | 10. fact |
| 6. opinion; most difficult | 11. fact |
| | 12. opinion; lovely |

p. 8 Fit to Print?

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. story | 8. news | 15. news |
| 2. story | 9. story | 16. story |
| 3. news | 10. story | 17. story |
| 4. news | 11. news | 18. story |
| 5. story | 12. story | 19. news |
| 6. story | 13. story | 20. news |
| 7. news | 14. news | |

Writing a News Article

Name: _____ Date: _____

p. 9 The Target Audience

Example Headlines:

Local	State	National	International/World
Family Reunion Turns into Fundraising for Local Library	Taxes in the State of South Carolina to Increase by 10%	Leak in Trans-continental Gas Line Causes Panic	Leaders of the Free World Meet in Madrid

Teachers should independently determine the appropriate categories for headlines taken from newspapers.

p. 10 Sequencing Supporting Details

Possible article sequence:

(Answers may vary—accept all reasonable sequences.)

- Lead Paragraph: 1, 4, 5, 7
- Supporting Paragraph #1: 8, 9, 12, 6, 10
- Supporting Paragraph # 2: 11, 2

p. 11 Model Behavior

Answers not required.

p. 13 Edit the Editor

(Answers may vary—accept all grammatically and orthographically correct versions.)

Students Caught in Mystifying Case

by News Reporter

Readalot, Pencilvania – According to numerous eyewitness reports, a major and shocking occurrence has happened in the community of Readalot, Pencilvania. The first reports indicate that on March 17, 2004, two unidentified students were caught holding and reading various textbooks and novels. An official investigation was launched yesterday to determine the truth about this matter. Since the investigation was announced, several witnesses have come forward to give testimony. One parent's comment was, "It couldn't have been my child! My son is an underachiever, and only watches TV or plays video games. Someone must have forced those poor kids. I'm sure it wasn't their fault."

Statistics show that only twenty-two percent of American adolescents read voluntarily. The community is in disbelief that local children would independently do such a thing. The names of the suspects have not been released, and they have not been interviewed. Their parents, however, have been contacted. The adolescents, both students at a local middle school, were not in class at the time. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of this strange and unexplained event.

Next week, a town meeting will be held to discuss the likelihood of future reoccurrences. Contact the local Reading Renegade Association for further information. Although the case remains unsolved, the community is keeping close watch on the students to determine the cause of this learning experience.

Writing a News Article

Name: _____ Date: _____

p. 14 Creative Writing

Answers not needed.

p. 15 What Have You Learned?

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 8. T | 15. T |
| 2. T | 9. F | 16. T |
| 3. T | 10. F | 17. T |
| 4. F | 11. F | 18. F |
| 5. F | 12. T | 19. F |
| 6. T | 13. F | 20. F |
| 7. F | 14. F | |

p. 16 Quiz

I.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. true | 5. false |
| 2. false | 6. false |
| 3. true | 7. true |
| 4. false | 8. false |

II.

1. byline
2. lead
3. headline
4. supporting paragraphs
5. location