

Reporting on the Remarkable: A Newspaper Writing Scaffold

Learning objective: To structure a newspaper report using formal language, the inverted pyramid style, and the five Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why).

Follow the structure below to write your own front-page news story. Remember to keep your tone formal, objective, and engaging for your readers. Use your word bank to help your writing flow.

Chaos erupted at the local park yesterday afternoon when a mysterious, glowing parcel was discovered tucked beneath the ancient oak tree by Max the monkey.

Word bank: Furthermore · Consequently · In addition to this · Eye-witness reports suggest · Significantly · Subsequently · Without warning · Following the investigation

1. Headline: Create a punchy, informative headline that uses alliteration or a pun. What is the most important piece of information to include? (1 mark)

2. The Lead Paragraph: Who, what, where, when, and why? Summarise the main event using the 5 Ws to capture the reader's interest immediately. (3 marks)

3. The Main Body: What happened during the event? Describe the sequence of events chronologically and explain why this news is significant to the community. (4 marks)

4. Eye-witness Quote: Use a quote from a witness (e.g., Nova the owl or a local resident). Explain why including a direct quote makes your report more credible. (3 marks)

5. The Conclusion: What might happen next? Justify why the authorities or the local public should take action following these recent discoveries. (3 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: Compare and contrast how a newspaper report differs from a fictional story. Why must a journalist remain objective rather than sharing their own feelings? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an editor. Write a short 'Letter to the Editor' justifying why this story deserves to be the front-page headline instead of a report about a local flower show. Use persuasive language to convince your readers of its importance.