

Mastering Newspaper Reports: Journalism with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To identify and apply the key features of a newspaper report, including the 5 Ws, formal tone, and structural devices.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of journalistic writing. Kit the Fox says: 'Always check your facts before you hit the presses!'

Headline

The short, punchy title at the top of a newspaper report designed to grab the reader's attention.

Byline

The line that tells the reader who wrote the article, usually placed under the headline.

5 Ws

Who, What, Where, When, and Why. These are the essential facts that must be included in the opening paragraph.

Lead Paragraph

The first paragraph of an article that summarises the main event and hooks the reader.

Direct Speech

Words spoken by a person, enclosed in inverted commas (quotation marks), used to provide a witness account or expert opinion.

Formal Tone

A serious and professional style of writing that avoids slang, contractions, and overly casual language.

Caption

A brief description or explanation written underneath a photograph to help the reader understand what is happening.

Orientation

The background information provided in the report to help the reader understand the context of the story.

Fact

A piece of information that can be proven to be true, which is essential for a reliable newspaper report.

Opinion

A personal view or belief; in journalism, these are usually kept to a minimum unless they belong to an interviewee.

The Five Ws Challenge

If you were writing a report about a local park opening, explain why including the 'Why' is just as important as the 'Who'?

Structural Analysis

Justify why a journalist might use a photograph with a caption instead of just writing more text.