

Mastering the Newspaper Report: Advanced Journalism Skills

Learning objective: To identify, understand, and apply the structural and linguistic features of formal newspaper reports suitable for Year 5 standards.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of journalistic conventions. Read the front, attempt to define the term or answer the question, then reveal the back to check your accuracy.

What is a Headline?

A short, punchy title designed to grab the reader's attention and summarise the main point of the story.

What are the '5 Ws' in journalism?

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

Explain the purpose of the 'Lead Paragraph'.

The first paragraph that introduces the most important information, setting the scene and hooking the reader immediately.

What is a Byline?

A line in a newspaper that gives the name of the writer of an article.

Define 'Direct Speech' in a report.

Words spoken by a person, enclosed in inverted commas, used to provide eyewitness accounts or expert opinions.

What is the function of a 'Caption'?

A brief explanation or description placed beneath an image to provide context for the reader.

Why do journalists often use the 'Passive Voice'?

To focus on the action or the event rather than the person who performed it, often adding a sense of objectivity or mystery.

What does 'Formal Register' mean in a newspaper report?

Using sophisticated, precise language and avoiding slang or informal contractions to ensure the report sounds professional and authoritative.

How does the 'Orientation' differ from the 'Headline'?

The headline is the title, while the orientation is the introduction that establishes the 'who, what, where, and when' for the reader.

Max the monkey is writing a report. Why should he use short, snappy columns?

Columns make the text easier to read and allow the newspaper to fit more information onto a single page clearly.

Justify why an eyewitness account is crucial in a news report.

It provides authenticity, adds a human perspective, and allows the reader to feel more connected to the event being described.

Compare and contrast a recount and a newspaper report.

Both are written in the past tense, but a report focuses on objective facts and public interest, whereas a recount is often personal and follows a chronological sequence.