

Headline Hunters: The Newspaper Challenge

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

Join Kit the Fox as he investigates the world of journalism! Read the questions carefully and demonstrate your reporting skills to help Kit get the front-page scoop.

Answer Key: 1. A (Headline); 2. True; 3. 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why); 4. B (To provide a summary); 5. False; 6. Byline; 7. Formal; 8. C (To add detail or evidence); 9. True; 10. True. Greater Depth Analysis: Journalists use the 5 Ws to ensure the reader understands the essential facts immediately. A formal tone is necessary to establish credibility and authority in news reporting.

Word bank: Headline · Byline · Orientation · Caption · Formal · 5 Ws · Direct Speech · Column

1. 1. What is the bold, catchy title at the top of a newspaper article called? A) Byline* B) Captive C) Footer D) Sidebar (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: A newspaper report should always be written in the third person. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the collective name for the essential information journalists include in their lead paragraph: Who, What, Where, When, and Why? (1 mark)

4. 4. Why is the 'lead' paragraph so important in a newspaper report? A) To decorate the page B) To provide a summary of the most important facts* C) To include a funny joke D) To list the author's favourite books (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: It is acceptable to include your own personal opinion (e.g., 'I think the event was boring') in a factual news report. (1 mark)

6. 6. What is the name of the line that tells the reader who wrote the article? (1 mark)

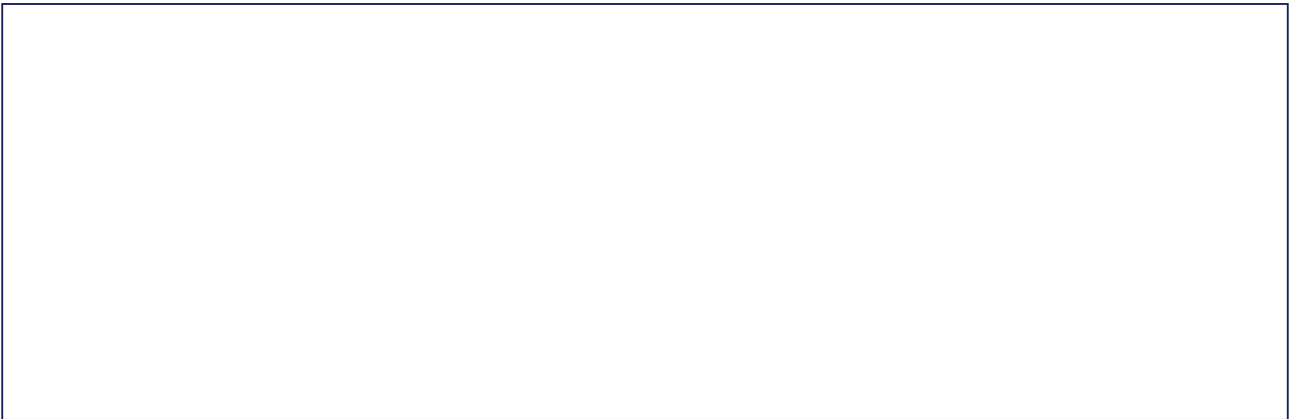
7. 7. Should the language in a newspaper report be A) Informal and slang-filled or B) Formal and objective? (1 mark)

8. 8. Why do journalists include quotes from witnesses? A) To make the story longer B) To show off their vocabulary C) To add detail or evidence to the report* D) To confuse the reader (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: A caption is a short description placed under a photograph to explain what is happening. (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Newspaper columns are often written in narrow vertical blocks to make them easier for the eye to scan. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw the front page of a local newspaper featuring a heroic deed by Kit the Fox. Include a bold headline, a photograph with a caption, and a small snippet of an article that uses at least one piece of direct speech.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why a journalist might choose to use 'passive voice' in a news report. 2. Compare and contrast a newspaper report with a persuasive letter; how does the purpose change the writing style? 3. Justify your answer: Why is it vital for a journalist to remain objective? 4. What might happen if a newspaper report failed to include the 5 Ws in the first paragraph? 5. Write a headline for a story about a local park reopening that uses alliteration. 6. How would the language change if you were writing a front-page story for a children's magazine versus a national broadsheet newspaper?