

Reporting for Duty: The Gazette Gazette

Learning objective: To structure a newspaper report using the inverted pyramid style, formal tone, and the 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why).

Use this writing scaffold to draft a newspaper report about an extraordinary discovery made by Kit the fox in the local woods. Remember to use formal language, third-person perspective, and provide specific details to engage your readers.

In a startling turn of events yesterday afternoon, local resident Kit the fox uncovered a mysterious, ancient-looking compass buried beneath the roots of the Great Oak.

Word bank: Furthermore · Subsequently · Allegedly · In a startling turn of events · Consequently · Nevertheless · Without warning · The eyewitness reported · An investigation is currently underway

1. Headline: Draft a catchy, punchy headline that uses alliteration or a strong verb to grab the reader's attention. (2 marks)

2. The Lead Paragraph: Summarise the main event by answering the 5 Ws. Who was involved, what happened, where did it take place, when did it occur, and why is it significant? (4 marks)

3. The Main Body: Describe the sequence of events in chronological order. How did Kit find the item? What did he do next? (4 marks)

4. The Eyewitness Account: Include a direct quote from a witness (perhaps Nova the owl or Leo the lion). Explain why their perspective is valuable to the story. (4 marks)

5. The Conclusion: What is the current situation? Explain why the authorities are involved or what might happen next in this investigation. (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Why is it important for a journalist to remain neutral and factual when writing a news report, rather than including their own personal opinions? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an editor. Write an alternative ending for your report where the discovery turns out to be a clever prank. Compare and contrast the tone of your original 'serious discovery' report with this new 'prank' version. Explain why changing the tone alters the reader's reaction.