Reporting the News: A Newspaper Writing Frame

Learning objective: To structure a formal newspaper report using journalistic features and cohesive devices.

Follow this scaffold to draft your own newspaper report based on a recent event in our school or community. Use the word bank to help maintain a formal tone, and ensure your report answers the 5 Ws: Who, What, Where, When, and Why.

Chaos erupted in the quiet village of Oakhaven yesterday morning when a mysterious, glowing parcel was discovered on the steps of the town hall.

Word bank: Furthermore · Consequently · In addition to this · Witnesses reported · Without warning · Exclusively · Meanwhile · According to officials

1. Headline: Create a catchy, punchy headline that uses alliteration or a strong verb to grab the reader's attention. Start here: (1 mark)

2. The Lead Paragraph: Summarise the most important information (the 5 Ws) clearly. Start here: 'Early yesterday morning, ...' (3 marks)

3. The Main Body: Describe the event in chronological order. Include one quote from a witness. Start here: 'As the event unfolded, ...' (4 marks)

4. The Expert Opinion: Explain the situation from a professional perspective. Start here: 'Local expert, [Name], stated that...' (3 marks)

5. The Conclusion: Provide a final update or look to the future. Start here: 'Investigations are currently ongoing, and residents are advised to...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a caption for a photograph that might accompany this story. Ensure your caption is informative and identifies at least two people or objects in the scene.