



Weekly Writing Task

Newspaper Report



Welcome young journalists!

Your task this week is to write a newspaper report.

1) The first thing you need to do is make notes on the events in this clip of 'Pigeon Impossible'.

<https://www.literacyshed.com/pigeon-impossible.html>



Remember notes should be succinct so only note down words and phrases to help you remember what happened. The most important facts for a reporter to record are the 5Ws so make sure you can answer:

What happened?

Who did it happen to?

When did it happen?

Where did it happen?

Why did it happen?



You may need to use your inference skills to answer some of these questions or a little creative reporting!

2) Now organise your notes and form a plan for your report.

P1 Introduction – A paragraph giving the key information without too much detail. Make sure you use the answers to the 5Ws.

P2 Now in the following paragraphs explain what happened in greater detail. Remember newspaper articles **do not** use lots of figurative language. If you need an example of a newspaper report to guide you please look at the end of this document.

P3 Further detail

P4 Further detail

P5 Record some quotes – You might ask an adult, who has watched the clip, to comment. Record exactly what they say using inverted commas (speech marks).

P6 The final paragraph should summarise events and may express hopes for the future, e.g. It is hoped that this is a one-off incident of pigeon destruction! Think about how you will end your report before you begin.

3) Now layout your page like a newspaper. Remember to divide your page into columns and leave space at the top for your headline. It's easier to think of your headline once your report is written. The 'By line' is the reporters name – that's you! Newspaper reports often have a picture/ photograph and caption so leave a space for this too.

Headline ← Local action for a global cause

Byline ← Laxmi Bhardwaj (12)

Opening Paragraph ←

Short Paragraphs
Details
Quotes
Statements
Written in columns ←

Summary of report ←

Mrs Rosalind Ravi/AES/2012

4) Write your report remembering to refer to your plan. Remember to include 2-3 quotes. When introducing the quote use words such as stated rather than murmured, as this is the language you would find in a report. Try to include the punctuation you have learned about in Year 6.

Punctuation Success Criteria	
Semi-colon ;	
Colon :	
Commas, brackets or dashes for parenthesis. .. () _ _	
The boy, who was 9, ran in his garden.	
Inverted commas (speech marks)	

Challenge:

To include the passive voice. The passive voice is a feature of newspapers. The subject of the sentence will be at the end of the sentence rather than at the beginning.

The **cat** chased the mouse. (Active)

The mouse was chased by the **cat**. (Passive)

- 5) Think of a headline. If you are filling creative consider using alliteration or a pun to make your headline memorable. If you have forgotten to use the passive voice this could be included in your headline! Draw or print your picture and add a caption.
- 6) Check your report thoroughly making sure that your spelling and punctuation is correct. A good journalist has to ensure that their report is accurate before it can be printed or published online.
- 7) Share your newspaper report with the people in your home. What do they think? Would they buy the newspaper with your report in?
- 8) If you have enjoyed working as a journalist you may want to write another report. Discuss with your family what it could be about.

Remember yours could be even better!

BOY OVERBOARD!

July 29th 1988

By Sharon Hart

In a dramatic series of events last night, a young boy fell overboard from his family's boat into the stormy water of the Coral Sea (off the east coast of Australia).

Michael Finnegan (12 years old today) was enjoying a round-the-world trip with his family when it is believed he lost his footing and fell into the sea.

The Finnegan family set sail from Southampton on September 10th 1987 in their small boat, the Peggy Sue. Travelling with Michael were his mother (Sue) and his father (John), as well as the family pet dog, Stella.

So far on their journey, they have visited



Michael on board Peggy Sue

Spain, Cape Verde, Brazil, Cape Town, Perth and Sydney. John, whose idea it was to set off on the trip, said that the journey was the trip of a lifetime and that so far it had been an amazing adventure.

According to the Finnegans, the evening of the incident had been largely uneventful, although Mrs Finnegan had been taken ill with stomach cramps.

John and Sue went to bed at around 10pm on

the night of the incident, leaving Michael steering the boat on deck (the self-steering had broken). It is thought that Stella the dog had been wandering around and possibly playing with Michael's football, because when John awoke in the middle of the night, all three had disappeared.

Speaking to BBC news this morning, Sue said tearfully, "We are so worried about our boy. He's all alone and could be anywhere by now. We need to find him!"

The search for Michael is underway, with police and coastguards scouring the area in the hope of finding him safe and well.