

Writing task: Newspaper report

Suggested SPAG: Points of view

Example

School Children Raise Funds for Local Charity

Frances Trackall, Education reporter

A small group of Year 5 students from Arkwood Primary School have created a brilliant plan to raise money for a local charity that assists people in the community. Following a visit to the school from a charity representative, the students set out to create a way of raising much needed funds.

The students presented the fundraising idea to school principal Mrs Justine Knight, who saw great potential in the plan to sell produce from the school's vegetable garden to local restaurants and, in turn, raise money for the local charity. She stated that 'the children have displayed a true sense of community in their fundraising plan.' Following a meeting with teachers, it is hoped that the students can begin to implement the four phase plan. 'The school would support students wholly in the fund raising venture,' Mrs Knight added.

The school plans to sell the garden produce to two local restaurants, beginning in early September. For more information on this fundraising plan, visit the Arkwood Primary School website (www.arkwood.sch.com).

headline

byline

lead

body

tail

Task 1:

A newspaper report needs to be about an interesting event, but also present FACTS. It cannot give opinions of the writer (you).

Decide on what you would like to write your newspaper report about. It can be made up if you like.

Some ideas are:

The last day of school

A day in your life at home currently

A school trip

A lottery win

Aliens landing in your garden

Finding an ancient jewel in your garden

Write down all of the facts you want to include in your article. You need to think about the 5WS;

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY.

Task 2:

Write the lead paragraph.

- Make the paragraph short and snappy so that it briefly explains what has happened;
- Ensure that, even if the reader stopped reading at this point, they would still know roughly what happened;
- Use past tense in most cases;
- Make sure the first paragraph answers who, what, where, when and why (or how).

Write the body section.

- Add more information and detail to your lead paragraph;
- Include background information, evidence, facts and quotes from people involved in or connected to the event/story;
- Continue to write in order of importance, putting the most important information in the first few paragraphs of the body section.
- Use conjunctions to link ideas.

Task 3:

Write the tail section.

- Give the reader the opportunity to gain additional information if they are particularly interested in the topic of the news report;
- Include links to previous news reports or useful websites;
- Include a final quote from a witness or expert that helps to sum up the story or that could hint at what might happen next.

Now, think of an interesting headline that you could use to catch the reader's attention.

Task 4:

Check over your writing and make sure that you are happy with it. You might want to edit- have a look on the blended learning website for an editing video to help you. Next, you can make your newspaper report look like a real one by writing up into columns and adding pictures.