

WRITING A NEWS ARTICLE... SOME POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- When writing a news article it is important to clearly organize information. Planning the story is necessary to ensure that all of the details are included in the correct order.
- Information is based on the “5 Ws” – Who, What, Where, When, Why
- News articles contain just the facts, (and lots of them). The writer’s opinion is not included. The reader does not want to know whether you agree or disagree – they just want to know what happened.
- News articles never use “I”, “Me”, or “My”.
- Quotes from people involved in the story being reported are often included. Short quotes – one or two lines – help readers understand more about the story being reported.
- Information in news articles are based on facts. A real news article is researched first.
- News articles are usually about a current event that people want to know about.
- A photograph sometimes is included with major stories

NEWS ARTICLE OUTLINE:**Headline:**

The headline is the title of the article and expresses the main idea of the story using direct and dramatic action verbs and nouns.

Byline: Often listed after the title, the byline gives the name of the person writing the story and his or her title.

Lead:

The lead is the first sentence in the article, and it gives the most important information to “hook” the reader’s attention.

Body:

The body is the main part of the article, and it contains the five Ws.

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

Write three or four important details about the story. Quotes may be included to help explain details.

Include summary or final detail.

(Sample Story)

The Globe and Mail

Saturday, December 5, 2009

**Missing Toronto infant found, police say
Teen last seen pushing baby in a stroller Friday now charged with abduction**

Ciara Byrne (Toronto, CP). A baby boy who disappeared from his Toronto home Friday evening was found safe and sound Saturday and police have charged a 14-year-old girl with abduction. Police said 10-month-old Kamren Cunningham was found Saturday afternoon, not far from the apartment complex he vanished from the day before. Police say a tip led them to the boy.

Kamren's mother, Kirsten Cunningham-Samuel, had pleaded with the public earlier in the day to contact the police if they'd seen her son.

After word that the infant had been located, Paulette Ransom, the boy's godmother, told reporters that Ms. Cunningham-Samuel was overwhelmed with joy.

"She just broke down crying, thanking God, just thanking God over and over . . . that he was okay and that he was coming back home," said Ms. Ransom.

Constable Tony Vella of Toronto police said the teen, who cannot be legally named, was charged with abducting a person under 14 years of age and is to appear in court Sunday to face the unproven allegation.

The girl, police said, had been seen Friday night pushing the infant in a Greco-brand black and checkered stroller, carrying a diaper bag.

Police were originally considering it missing person's case, but on Saturday said they'd concluded the boy was taken from his mother.

Officers spent most of Saturday going door-to-door in the northeast Toronto apartment complex, talking to neighbours and potential witnesses.

One witness who spoke to police, Care Ellis, said she saw a "distraught" teenage girl with the sleeping child Friday night, about a three-minute walk from the apartment complex.

"She looked really messed up. She was all over the place . . . a bit ill-looking," Ms. Ellis said.

"The baby didn't even have a blanket. That kind of disgusted me," the mother-of-two added. "He had basically a jacket, shoes, its clothing on, no blanket, nothing covering the baby. It was very windy out there."

Toronto police said throughout the day they were planning to issue an Amber Alert — a public notification system that is sometimes used when a child is abducted — but the infant was found before that step was necessary.

Before the baby was recovered, Ms. Cunningham-Samuel delivered an impassioned plea for her child's safety.

"All his clothes are gone. All his formula's gone. All his diapers are gone. My son is gone," she said outside the apartment. "It's been 24 hours since my son has been missing and he needs to come home. He needs his mom."

Ms. Ransom said Kamren is a "beautiful baby" who's used to getting a lot of love and attention from his family.

"He's just always smiling, always loving. He's amazing. He's infectious — he smiles, you have to smile with him," she said.

NEWS ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT...

Answer the following questions about the article above. Record your answers on a piece of lined paper.

1. News articles are based on facts, which are based on the “5 Ws”. For each, provide information from the article to show how the writer included this information:
 - WHO
 - WHAT
 - WHERE
 - WHEN
 - WHY
2. How might the use of quotes in this article make it more interesting for the reader?
3. Provide an example from the article of how details are included to help the audience understand information that is included in the story.
4. Describe how the article organizes information. What details are provided first and which ones are provided last? What does this suggest about the importance of those details?
5. Why is the last quote of this article effective? What emotion does it try to make the audience feel?

You will write your own news article on a topic of your choice.

Choose a topic and create an outline where you come up with “facts”, (it can be whatever you want provided it is appropriate for school). Note that you can “make up” the details for this article. Complete an outline similar to the one included. You can also plan to include quotes and details similar to the example(s) included.

Your news article must include:

- Headline, byline, Lead, Body, Close
- Information on the 5 W’s, properly organized
- Quotes, (but there should be far more of your reporting on facts than there are quotes in the story)
- Short paragraphs similar to the examples. Note how each paragraph talks about only one topic
- Edited for spelling and grammar
- Length: 450 words

A COMPLETED TOPIC AND OUTLINE ARE DUE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8.

THE ROUGH COPY FOR THIS NEWS ARTICLE IS DUE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9.