

Newspaper reporters have been around for hundreds of years writing about what people are doing, what they are saying, and what other people want to know. Even in today's electronic age, the newspaper is still an extremely important form of mass communication.

You are going to act as a reporter and write an article on an important news event you or your teacher chooses. Your job, like that of all reporters, is to listen to everything carefully, observe all that's going on, take careful notes, and write the most accurate and most interesting story you can.

The following are some basic rules for you to follow in preparing to write your news article.

1. There are six words to remember while writing all news stories—the 5 Ws and the how.
  - Who was involved?
  - What happened?
  - Where did it happen?
  - When did it happen?
  - Why did it happen?
  - How did it happen?

Note: You should answer these six questions in the first paragraph of your story.
2. Take careful, complete notes of what you observe and what you hear. Keep track of who makes important statements and exactly what they said so you can quote them accurately when you write your article.
3. After giving all of the basic information—the 5 Ws and how in the first paragraph—use the rest of the paragraphs to give details of what important things took place during the newsworthy event.
4. The article must have a headline and should be between 150-200 words.
5. Include as much background information as is necessary so the article will make sense to someone who knows nothing about what is happening.

## DIARY ENTRY

**Directions:** Pretend you are a witness to an event that has spurred an upcoming trial and you are a witness. Write a diary entry that will help you prepare for the trial.

Here is what you should include:

- your personal history
- what you were doing in the area
- how you were involved in the incident
- how you feel about this involvement
- how you feel about the defendant(s)

You may also include any other information you feel is important. Use your imagination!

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