




Section 2

Developing writing

In this section, children build on their news-writing skills, developing the features of news stories that were identified in section 1.



Activity breakdown

Audience

- Morning conference (page 20)
- First sentence (page 20)

Details

- It's a fact (page 21)
- One event, two views (page 23)

Use of quotations

- What did they say? (page 21)
- What did you think? (page 22)
- Quoted or reported? (page 23)

Answers

- First sentence (page 20)
- Question generator (page 22)

Headlines

- Write your own headline (page 24)

Brevity

- Standfirst (page 24)

Resources

As you work through this section, there are some vital resources that you will need in your classroom. The first is a steady supply of real newspapers: if you can, order a daily newspaper if your class doesn't already receive one. Mix the styles of newspaper such as broadsheet and tabloid; local and national.

A variety of other news resources is also useful. This could involve listening to radio bulletins or watching lunchtime news on the television. There should be space on the classroom wall for children to put up selected news stories. Take note of things happening in the school or community to provide worthwhile news material, such as school holidays, visits, trips, meetings of the Governors and so on.

Building on good examples

The activities in this section build on the features of news reporting that were summarised on the poster at the end of section 1. There is a consideration of what makes for an interesting story, followed by activities that look at the sorts of questions to be asked, answers to be given and quotes to be used. It is useful to keep referring back to the poster for support and constant reminders about 'facts and quotes'.

Different views

This section also teases out the issue of different views on an event, a vital component of news reporting. Read any newspaper and it should demonstrate the fact that one event can be seen in a number of ways.

Bringing writing to life

When making notes, it adds excitement if you encourage the children to use reporter's notepads, and to study real news to help make their writing purposeful and realistic.