



Section 1

Using good examples

Using news stories

The examples in this section provide a way into the genre, with certain features that should be highlighted. The activities facilitate analysis and understanding of aspects of news writing. The main features to look out for are:

- Interest: Looking at current events; whether these are big, historic or small events, look for newsworthy events that grab our interest. Some events are of national or international significance while others will be small-scale human interest stories.
- Variety and range: For example, comparing and contrasting the front pages of tabloid and broadsheet newspapers. There is a likelihood that the stories in each type of newspaper vary, catering for the specific readers that the papers are aimed at.
- Headlines: Looking at how headlines draw the reader in, considering the wordplay and how headlines are constructed is vital. Headlines can announce momentous occasions to startling facts.
- Details and facts: As you look through the examples in this section you will see that journalists are constantly answering the basic questions about a news story: Who? What? When? Where? Why? Readers want to know the facts and the details. However, part of the craft of news writing is to do this with brevity. In the examples there are instances of facts being effectively communicated, often within the first line of the story. This is a habit to point out, highlight and cultivate.
- Insight: News stories can take us to the situation they report. One vital tool is the quote. As readers we don't just want the facts, we also want to hear what the people involved in the story are feeling.
- Interesting stories: It is really important that the class start to build up their own portfolio of interesting news stories. You can do this by asking them to seek out stories that can be used alongside the materials that follow.



News story features

Audience

- Story is of interest to the reader.

Structure

- Details give facts of the story.
- Use of quotations.

Content

- Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Style

- Headlines grab the reader's attention.
- Writing is edited down for brevity.