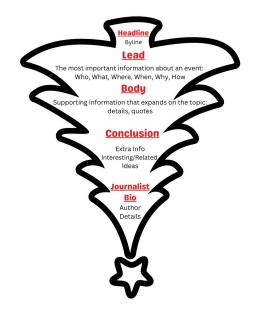




At Scout Elf School, our students practice writing stories that they compile into a North Pole Newsletter to share with all the other North Pole residents, including Santa and Mrs. Claus. In this activity, your students can practice their writing skills, including the development and organization of ideas, to identify and create headlines and journalistic stories they will want to share.

Activity Instructions

- Examine several newspapers or newsletters together and identify the components of basic journalistic formatting:
 - o headline
 - o byline
 - lead paragraph
 - information paragraph(s)
 - additional information paragraph(s)
 - o photo(s)
- Be sure to examine non-news sections as well, i.e., reviews, opinion pieces, letters to the editor, etc.
- Ask students to write WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, and HOW in their notebooks.
- Explain that students are going to brainstorm their own headlines and possible news stories that would be interesting to readers, inspired by current events. Examples should include events related to your school or community, e.g., playground installation, new recycling efforts, teacher spotlight, spelling bee finalists.
- Draw the inverted tree for news writing on the board and explain that with this technique as a guideline, the most important details of a journalistic story go in the beginning of the story, with the least important details at the end of the story.





Further Practice

Beginning learners:

- Complete the Headline Helper Activity Sheet as a class.
- Brainstorm as a class to identify news stories related to your school or community. Vote on one or two and write a news story with a fitting headline together as a class.

Progressing learners:

- Complete the Headline Helper Activity Sheet in small groups.
- Brainstorm in small groups to identify news stories related to your school or community. Vote on one or two and write a news story, with a fitting headline, together as a class.
- Discuss the other sections of a newsletter or newspaper, and how those differ from a traditional news story.

Advanced learners:

- After writing a news story together as a class or in small groups and discussing other sections of a newsletter or newspaper, have students choose a new topic and write a short news article using the inverted pyramid technique as a guide.
- Complete the Headline Helper Activity Sheet individually and discuss answers as a class.
- Assign roles to students or student groups to use a software template to compile student stories into a newspaper or newsletter.

Headline

Byline

Lead

The most important information about an event: Who, What, Where, When, Why, How

Body

Supporting information that expands on the topic: details, quotes

Conclusion

Extra Info Interesting/Related Ideas

Journalist Bio

Author Details



Headline Helper Activity

Headlines are the largest, boldest words found at the top of an article or news story. The best headlines summarize the story using some (but not all) of the information from the who, what, where, when, why and how details, and interest the reader so that they want to keep reading the story to learn more details.

Good headlines grab your reader's attention and are clear and short. Mark the best headlines from the groupings below with an X.

1	 Scout Elf Joe Rated World's Greatest Elfluencer Joe is the Best Scout Elfluencer Because He Has the Most Fans and People Like Him So Much He Won a Big Award—the World's Greatest
2	Big Fat SnowballGiant Snowball Rolls Across City Center, Lodges in Mail Grotto Door
3	Yellow Snow is Reindeer's FaultYuck! Something Mysterious No One Wants to Read About
4	Mrs. Claus Designs Best Snowsuit EverGlow-in-the-Dark Buttons on Wonderful Snow Suit and Boots Look Great Too, Wow!
5	Whoops! Somebody Lost SomethingSnow Launcher Found Hidden Behind Hot Cocoa Stand
6	Days Off Santa's Workshop Closed For Holiday
7	 Elf Record Broken for Number of Days Sitting Still One Day Scout Elf Razzle Dazzle Landed in Her Family's Christmas Tree and Then Read the Story to Find Out
8	Wowza! Where Did Those Decorations Come From?City Center Tree Gets New Look
9	Milk and Cookies No Longer the Most Popular Snack WorldwideSome People Like Milk and Cookies