



# Writing Articles Help Sheet Resort Review



## What is a newspaper article?

Newspaper articles are designed to inform people about what is going on in the world. They are usually about events which have only just happened and contain facts, quotes and information on these events. The following features should help you to structure your work and you can use them as a checklist to ensure it looks and sounds like an authentic article.

What do I need to include?

**Columns for your writing** – look at any newspaper and you'll see examples of this

**Headline** – the main title

**By line** – Journalist who has written the report

**Photo/picture** – remember it is important that you think carefully about what the picture tells the reader.

**Summary of the story** – this is a **short** introduction where you need to use your 5 w's (Who? What? Where?

Why? When?) to provide a summary of the entire story

**Body** – the article then details the whole story using paragraphs. Each paragraph details a section of the story (The first task requires you to add *personal opinion* as you are reviewing the resort)

**Direct speech and reported speech** – direct speech is where quotes are taken directly from someone using quotation marks (speech marks/ inverted commas/ “”) and must be **exactly** what was said. Reported or indirect speech is where the reporter tells the reader what was said (he suggested, she explained that, they said that...)

## Top tips when writing your article

- Grab the reader's attention with your headline – short and snappy!
- Use **detail** in the body of the story to make sure the reader can visualise what you are describing
- Think carefully about your **language** and **vocabulary** when portraying the resort
- Can you include topic specific vocabulary? *It is likely that you found examples of this when creating your webpage, leaflet or brochure for the last Unexpected Adventure Trail*
- Add a photo or picture BUT... use it wisely - you are reviewing a resort so your picture choice will depend on your opinion of the hotel (e.g. if it was a positive experience, you'll include a picture to reflect that but if it was a negative experience, one of your pictures could show the detail of what was inadequate). You will probably want to include up to two pictures.
- Keep the task in mind and try to take on the role of the journalist

## Useful websites

First News has some great resources:

flash cards <https://schools.firstnews.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/blog/journalistic-writing/features-of-newspaper-terminology-flash-cards.pdf>

This shows an article and identifies the key features

<https://schools.firstnews.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/blog/journalistic-writing/features-of-a-newspaper-report-ks2.pdf>

Top tips from an editor

<https://schools.firstnews.co.uk/blog/journalistic-writing/top-ten-tips-for-writing-a-newspaper-report/>

BBC bitesize has a short video and a quiz:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z2vycdm/articles/z2gk9qt>

### Remember

- To include personal opinion about the resort
- To use **formal language** and **standard English**
- To use high-level punctuation effectively to make your writing clear for the reader
- Use a mixture of different sentence types and lengths to help engage the reader
- Use a lively style to keep the reader interested
- Your writing should be at least side of A4 – just as we would expect in school (but remember that quality is more important than quantity...longer doesn't mean it is better!)
- Read through what you have written regularly to check it makes sense and to ensure that you have included what you initially planned to. Read it to someone else and ask them to check it too.



## Writing Articles Help Sheet

### Persuasive Article

### The Plight of the Sea Turtle



### Writing a persuasive article for your newspaper

**Most of the information on the previous page will be necessary for writing this piece; however, you will need to adapt the style of the article to match the task.**

Think back to the work you did about persuasion and remember to use persuasive devices in your writing. You are trying to get your point across to people and you (as the journalist) have been there and have first-hand information which you can use to inform the reader.

Read the article about the plight of the sea turtle very carefully. Consider the **key information** that you will need in order to **persuade** people to care about the sea turtle, making notes as you go along if it helps.

Choose your language carefully and with purpose. Remember to use:

- Emotive language – words which provoke an emotional response (e.g. endangered, threat)
- Repetition of key words or facts – this helps emphasise how bad the situation is
- 1st person
- Rhetorical questions – get the reader thinking, make them reflect on the situation
- Facts and your opinions – the two together will help persuade the reader that you know what you're talking about
- Formal language and standard English – don't be tempted to slip into a 'chatty' style
- Topic specific and scientific vocabulary related to these marine creatures, their habitats and the problems they face

### Helpful links

BBC Bitesize has a very useful video which gives some examples of the techniques you will be using.

Use their mnemonic 'PERSUADE' to help you with your article.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zv7fq3/articles/zr8cmfr>

### When you have finished

Check that you have thought about your punctuation, grammar and spelling and that your work makes sense.

- Is it long enough (at least a side of A4)?
- Have you concentrated on the persuasive techniques?
- Do you need to edit and improve a section?

Maybe you could read the article to a family member over the phone or via video chat. Perhaps they could tell you how persuasive you were?