Writing a News Report
Features of a News Report

1. All news reports have a headline. This acts as the title of the news report and tells the reader what the news article will be about.

In this example, the headline is “Death at the Circus”.

[Image of a newspaper page with the headline “Death at the Circus”]
Features of a News Report

2) Byline: comes directly under the headline, before the actual news report begins. The byline gives the author’s name and job, as well as the date the article is written.
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3) Placeline: This comes at the very beginning of the first paragraph. It is simply the name of the location where the event took place.

In this example, the placeline is “Jerusalem”
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4) Lead paragraph: The lead paragraph introduces the topic to the reader. It should be only 2-4 sentences in length and answer who, what, where, and when.
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5) Body Paragraphs: You should have at least 3 body paragraphs. Each body paragraph should be 2-3 sentences. Here, you will elaborate on what happened. Choose 2 or 3 specific details about the event or topic that you mentioned in the lead paragraph that you would add more detail to.
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6) Quotes: News articles typically have quotes from a witness or participant of the event, or a specialist on the topic. For your assignments, you can make up a person and the quote.
Car thief caught trapped in target vehicle

Jim Day, Staff Reporter
Wed Feb 25, 2009

CANBERRA - A bungling Australian car thief was nabbed after accidentally locking himself in the vehicle he was trying to steal, police said Wednesday.

Police were called to a house in Adelaide after two thieves were heard trying to steal a car. On arrival they were surprised to find a 53-year old man hiding inside the vehicle.

"The man, while breaking into the car, had locked himself in the car and couldn't get out," South Australian police said, adding a second thief was found hiding in nearby bushes.
How dolphins hear sounds

They use two areas of their brains to process noise and create mental images

Dolphins are incredibly intelligent, social animals and yet very little is known about how their brains function,” said lead author of the study Gregory Berns, neuroscientist at Emory University in the US. For the study, the researcher mapped for the first time the sensory and motor systems in the brains of dolphins.

“We now have the first picture of the entire dolphin brain and all of the white matter connections inside of it,” Berns said. The researchers applied a technique of diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) on the preserved brains of two dolphins, which died after being stranded on a beach in North Carolina more than a decade ago. The study focused on the dolphin auditory system, since dolphins — along with several other animals, such as bats — use echolocation to sense their environments.

“We found that there are probably multiple areas in the dolphin brain associated with auditory information, and the neural pathways look similar to those of a bat,” Berns said.

“This is surprising because dolphins and bats are far apart on evolutionary tree. They diverged millions of years ago but their brains may have evolved similar mechanisms for using sound to create mental images,” Berns said. IANS

NEW YORK: Unlike most mammals that primarily process sound in a single area, two areas of the dolphin brain are associated with the auditory system, a new research says.

PHOTO: AP
News Report Writing Rules

1. News reports are always written in past tense. When writing, write as if the event happened yesterday.
2. News reports are always written in third person. No personal opinions, except in the direct quotations.
3. All paragraphs are maximum 4 sentences in length. NO LONGER!!!!
4. You must use quotation marks when putting in a quote from a witness, participant, or specialist.
5. When naming people in a news report: First time, use their first and last name. Other times, use only their last name.
ASSIGNMENT:

You will write a news article, reporting on the events taking place in Ithaca.

Think:

- Odysseus is presumed dead in Troy
- Suitors trying to get Penelope to remarry
- Telemachus leaving to search for his father

Remember: a news article will not be your personal opinion, it will just be stating the facts about what is happening.

Use the checklist on the following page to help you.
New Report Checklist

- Headline
- Byline
- Placeline
- Lead paragraph answers who, what, where, when
- 2-3 body paragraphs
- Each paragraph is between 2-4 sentences in length
- At least one direct quotation (make up the people and quotes)
- Written in past tense
- Written in third person (no personal opinions)
- Grammar and spelling