

## Write a Newspaper Report

### Task

Dear Diary

I can't quite believe what has happened today. I was on my way to school as usual, dreaming about what I was going to do at the weekend, when I heard shouts coming from the lane leading down to the river. I looked around and saw I was in fact the only person in the road at that point. I wandered over to the entrance to the lane; I'm a bit nosy and was racking my brain to think what might be going on. I couldn't quite believe my eyes; there in front of me was a young girl struggling with a man of about forty. I assessed the situation quite quickly and was deciding whether to intervene when the man turned and saw me looking. He shouted something in an aggressive voice and continued to try to push the girl against the wall, screaming at her to give him her bag.....

**Write a newspaper report with a headline based on the above extract from a diary entry.**

## ***How to Plan your Newspaper Report***

A newspaper report is a formal piece of writing and most reports use a stock bank of phrases, so in many ways it is easy to get it right if you can remember the kinds of words they use when writing. Begin with thinking up a headline, this will give your report a focus and it will help you to get started. Learn the following phrases that are often used in newspaper reports:

- **It was reported today that**
- **Our reporter was on the scene and had this to say....**
- **An eye witness said....**
- **We managed to speak to the victim's family who said this...**

Try to write about the people in your report in an interesting way. First of all give them names, and when you refer to them in the report change the way you describe them. For example, say 'the brave teenager' or 'the sixth form pupil at Redgrave School' or perhaps even 'the reluctant hero'.

Brainstorm your ideas below beginning with your headline and then listing the facts of the newspaper report. When you have got your story ideas planned out, it should be easy to begin to write. It is helpful if you read some newspaper reports before you begin as this will give you further ideas about the kinds of phrases they use, perhaps make a note of them and try to remember some of them.

**HEADLINE** .....

**FACTS:**

## **Sample 'Newspaper Report'**

### **TEENAGER WINS AWARD**

Rebecca Morden, a sixth form pupil at North View High School, has today been presented with an award for her bravery and courage in the face of adversity. Rebecca, from Bristol, managed to drag two year old Sophie Jones from the pond in Mill Park at the end of last year. This, you may think, showed remarkable courage, but it becomes more so when you know that Rebecca herself is wheelchair bound due to a debilitating illness. Pupils from North View High School put Rebecca's name forward for the award when they read about it in their local paper, 'The Evening Post'.

The Lord Mayor, who presented her with the award, heard how Rebecca managed to drag herself from her wheelchair then continued to move herself to the side of the pond and grab the drowning toddler, Sophie, from the murky waters.

The Mayor was full of congratulations for the amazing heroine and told her that he was delighted to have had the pleasure to have met her and to present her with the award.

Rebecca simply said, "I just did what anyone would have done in the circumstances."

## ***‘Newspaper Report’ – National Curriculum Focus and Strands of Assessment***

### **EN3 – Writing**

#### **National Curriculum Writing Triplet – inform, explain and describe**

When tackling the newspaper report pupils should try to:

- form sentences and paragraphs that express connections between information and ideas precisely (for example, cause and effect, comparison)
- use formal and impersonal language and concise expression
- consider what the reader needs to know and include relevant details
- present material clearly, using appropriate layout, illustrations and organisation

Through the use of the planning sheet pupils will be:

- planning and drafting their work on paper

## **Assessment**

### **Sentence Structure and Punctuation**

The writing should have:

- sentence structures which support and develop sequences of events or relationships between cause and effect
- a variety of sentence structures used for emphasis and effect
- secure shifts between tenses
- complex verb forms including modals which qualify meaning and convey attitude (‘if it hadn’t been for John, the teenager might have died’)
- a range of punctuation which gives clarity and is often used for effect

### **Text Structure and Organisation**

The newspaper report should:

- have paragraphs which support the structure of a newspaper report
- have paragraphs introducing topic sentences, as well as ideas within paragraphs linked using cohesive devices such as building up points for emphasis

### **Composition and Effect**

The newspaper report should:

- maintain and exploit aspects of form to engage the reader
- have a journalistic viewpoint which is developed throughout the report
- have an appropriate style and use a range of stylistic devices