



Writing a News Report for the OSSLT

The Task

- On the literacy test, you will be given a headline and an image;
- From there, you are responsible for brainstorming the details and information;
- You will need to write a full news report.



Learning Goals / Purpose of the Presentation

- I can identify the difference between a news report and a news cast
- I can make up facts and information to answer the questions who, what, where, when, why, and how in a news report based on a headline and picture
- I can organize my information into the form of a news report and use language appropriate to the form
- I can use direct and indirect quotes to develop my report



Basic rules in developing a Newspaper Report

- You must begin with a lead paragraph that answers these questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
- The rest of the paragraphs will fill in the important details and will be NO LONGER THAN 2-3 sentences each
- Must be written in third person (absolutely no personal language, except in quotes)
- Must include a minimum of two quotes, either indirect or direct (word for word what somebody connected to the story said)

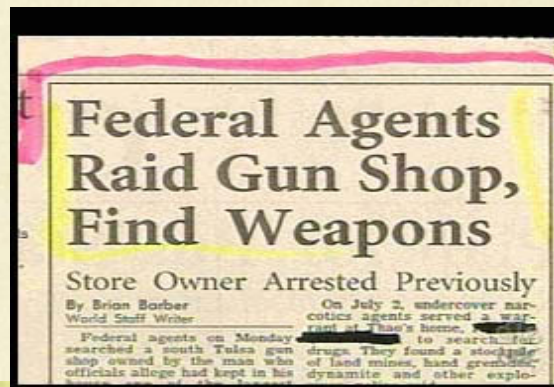


Rules Continued

- Think of the event as just having happened → we would then consistently use the past tense;
- Make sure you focus on a single event and a single moment in time to avoid your report sounding more like a story;
- Make sure when referring to people in your report, you call them by their first and last name the first time, and last name thereafter....NEVER by the first name (too informal)
- If the person has a title, use it to add authority. For example, Mr. Chen, principal of Bishop Marrocco Thomas Merton said....



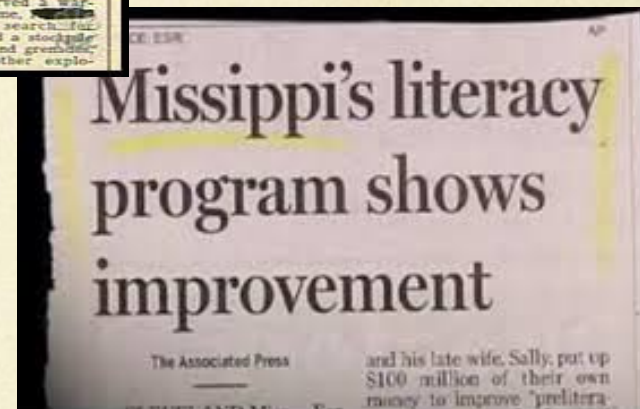
What??



‘We hate math,’ say 4 in 10 — a majority of Americans

WASHINGTON — People in this country have a love-hate relationship with math, a favorite school subject for some but just a bad memory for many others, especially women.

In an AP-AOL News poll as students head back to school, almost four in 10 adults surveyed said they hated math in school, a widespread disdain that complicates efforts today



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How you will be scored? Lets take a look at the booklet...



What Score would you give?

- Using what you now know about the OSSLT scoring rubrics, for each of the following news reports, decide what grade you would apply.



Topic Development

Overnight snowfall on
December 27th 2010.

Most residents of the town are
unable to leave their property because
of the two feet of snow holding
their vehicles hostage!

Joe, seen clearing snow from his driveway
started, "We have not seen such a bad
storm since 1999!"

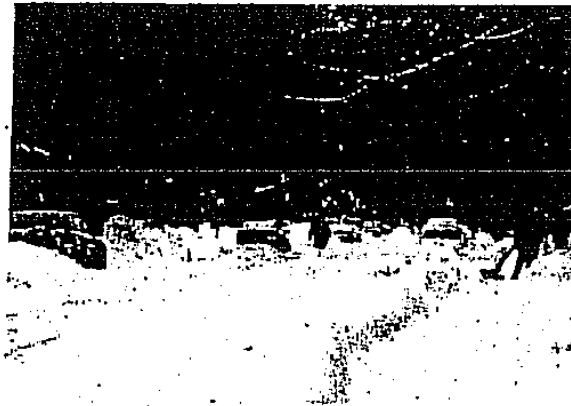
How'd you do?

- If you said “below” , you are correct
- This person received a score of 40

There is a clear and consistent focus on an event (*stuck in their homes due to heavy overnight snowfall*). There are sufficient supporting details. Some are specific (*hundreds, two feet, Joe, 1999, December 30th*). Other details are vague (*most residents, few days*). The organization is mechanical.

Topic Development

On Tuesday March 30th a snowstorm hit the southern coast of Ontario, shutting down many of the work areas. The storm that started from Vancouver moved at 24 km/h and reached **city** closing down many regions, specially the **region**. Weather official, Mary Kate says: "Canada can be unpredictable but we weren't expecting this huge amount this late in the year." The storm closed down schools, banks and even universities. "The problem is that we weren't even warned about it so, we were very unprepared. We actually didn't have our equipment handy when we first heard about it" say **name**, one of the region's experts in snow management. The storm caused many cars to get stuck in the road for as much as 2 hours. "The depth of 17 cm of snow is the most shocking snow disaster we have ever had since 1938," says old Jack, one of the senior citizens. Due to this disaster many plans, meetings and lessons were delayed. Students were advised not to even attempt going to school after one student, **name** slipped into a 30 cm wide hole and broke her leg. "It was very scary as I was trying to break free from the whole and my body was half buried in snow" she says. The mayor of **city** declared this day "zero day" since nothing could get done. "I guess this is a wake up call that we need to always be prepared for snow," he said. After all Canadian weather has always had a remarkable history.



How'd you do?

- If you gave this student a score of 60, you are correct

There is a clear and consistent focus on an event (*snowstorm*). Sufficient specific supporting details (*southern coast of Ontario, Vancouver, 24 km/h, York Region, Mary Kate, 170 cm, 1978, 50 cm*) are thoughtfully chosen to develop the news report. Organization is coherent. Quotations are effectively placed. Final statement is an effective conclusion, connecting to the ideas in the response.

Conventions

30, 40 or below (explain)

- For each of the following, you are not focusing on the quality of the news report
- You are focussing only on such things as spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.

Conventions

this one. People are not even trying to get to work. The snow is 10 feet high so no one is going anywhere for

a long time. Some can not even open their door to get out. It's been 3 days and the snow is still higher than ever. Just last night the snow started again but not as bad. We are trying to do something about it but no one wants to get out there to the snow.



How'd you do?

- If you scored this student “below” , you are correct
- They received a code 20

Errors distract from communication. Reading rhythm is interrupted by omissions (comma) and erratic use of capitals, by run-on sentences, by errors in usage (*“in about two day,”* *“it’s been 3 day”*) by improper use of apostrophes (*want’s*) and by omitted words.

Conventions

Storm Shuts Down Region

January 18th there has
been a major snow storm



How'd you do?

- If you said “below, you are correct
- This was scored as a 10

This response provides insufficient evidence.



Conventions

Storm Shuts Down Region

December 15, 2001 in

city

, Ontario Canada

the region was shut down due to weather.

The weather was so ~~terrible~~ terrible that the power was cut, automobile were not able to run and all heating was off.



On this day schools were shut down, work places and every bus ~~or~~ and train were not able to run. The region has been shut down for three days and help is on it's way. The plow trucks are not able to run through the city as well due to the roads being such a mess.

The city had no warning of this storm, it had happened over night with shock. Some people are stuck in houses and other in work buildings. The luck for this city of having help should be soon, but as far now there is nothing you can do but wait. Good luck

city

How' d you do?

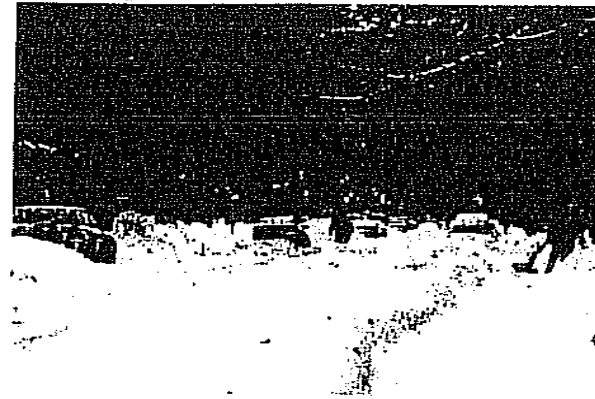
- If you scored this student with a 30, you are correct

Effective use of conventions is evident in the written work (e.g., effective use of quotations and semicolon). Errors in spelling (*do*, *automobile*, *it's*) do not distract.

Conventions

Storm Shuts Down Region

A record breaking snow storm shuts down the region of [redacted] town for hours, and left hundreds of people without electricity for up to 6 hours!



Early Monday morning [redacted] name had a huge amount of snow drop: down on them from mother nature! Many people had different thoughts on the storm when we asked them later that night.

Mary-Lou a third grader from [redacted] school said, "I love the snow! It's so much fun to play in, and we get a day off school!" On the other hand when we asked Mary-Lou's mother what she thought of the storm she gave a very different answer!

"I don't mind the snow, but getting this much of it is just too much!" she said.

As we drove around some of the towns in the [redacted] name region we saw many people shoveling, and cleaning up to four feet of snow off their drive way, I'm sure everyone will be happy to see spring coming up soon!

How'd you do?

- If you gave this student a perfect score of 40, you are correct

Control of conventions is evident through the use of punctuation. Some spelling errors ("diffrent," "shovoling," "comming,") and lack of commas ("Mary-Lou a third grader from . . .") do not undermine the overall control of conventions.

Let's put it all together

- Using your own words, let's come up with a list of what a successful news report will look like
- Our list should include information from the beginning of the note (rules), as well as from the rubrics on topic development and conventions.



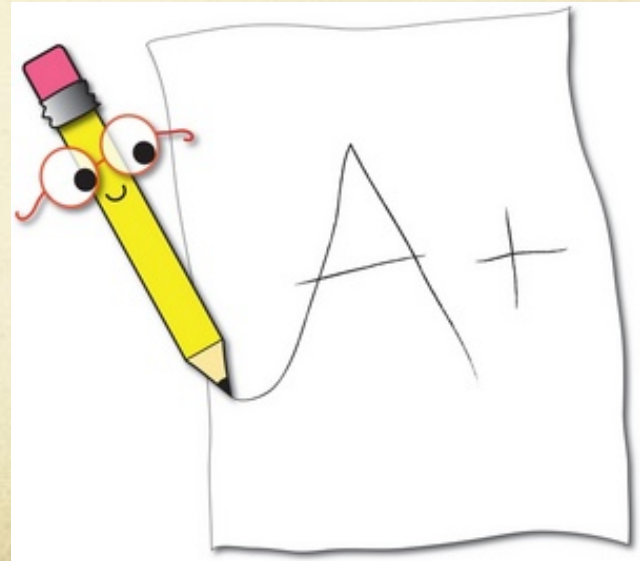
Success Criteria for a News Report

- Beginning paragraph (lead) will answer 5w and how
- 4-6 paragraphs
- 2-3 sentences
- Very few/minor spelling, grammar mistakes (5 or less)
- Stay focussed on one idea (connected to pic and headline)
- Many supporting details (specific. Numbers, names etc)
- At least 2 quotes (direct and indirect)
- Use length provided as a guide
- Recap with conclusion
- Make it “flowy” , use good transition words
- Title or first and last name
- Tag the person with their title (Mr. Chen, principal)

Lead Paragraph

- Although there are no rules for what order you put the lead in, the following formula ALWAYS works
 - When + Where + Who + What = first sentence
 - Why + How = second sentence

Example:



Students Fundraise for a Good Cause

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

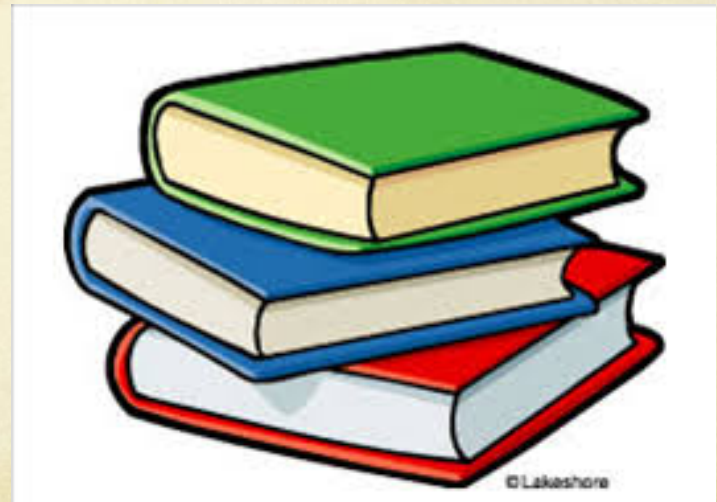
Why?

How?



Your Turn

- For the following headlines and images, brainstorm the 5ws and 1h
- Write the lead paragraph for each of the following anywhere in your notebook...



Samples

School purchases cell phone signal blocker



Sample 2

School board to change school schedule

