

ReadBox Project

-Newspaper front page-



Let's write your own newspaper front page !

During this Readbox project you are going to become a real newspaper writer. For this project, you will create a newspaper front page that is entirely devoted to the book you read and that captures your book's characters, plot, setting(s) and conflict(s). The front page should look as much like a real newspaper page as possible. You are going to make a poster size (A3/ 2XA4) newspaper. Write your own headlines, lay out the newspaper (including photos or graphics, as appropriate) and produce your very own newspaper front page.

▶ STAGE 1: Preparation

Step 1.1 The reading process: Choose the right book; one you love.

See the Third trimester introduction booklet if you need help in choosing the right book.

Decide on a book that you would like to read and recommend to your classmates. Check it with your teacher and fill in the book form (**Book Form - Appendix VIII**) Analyse the book: What is so good about it ? Why have you chosen this book ? What makes this book so interesting for you as a reader ? Brainstorm and make a mind map. Use words and images that describe the story and parts you want to tell. Connect and contextualise ideas you have; they will help you to develop your understanding on your chosen book. A good mind map will save you a lot of work later on, when making the actual newspaper front page.

Tip: You could use the Mindmeister App or Mindjet Maps for iPad.

When you come across unfamiliar vocabulary, add them to the Vocabulary Notebook and build new vocabulary while reading. (**Vocabulary Notebook - Appendix V**)

Also do some background information on your book: Find out more information on the book. Gather and add further resources (links, websites, films, etc.) about the setting, characters, topic, author etc. This information will help you to understand the book.

So first of all you will have to read and know your book inside out. While reading, think if there are newsworthy topics worth writing about ? You could interview the main character. You could write a short biography on the author. Use the weather from the book to write a weather forecast. Place an advertisement. Think of these possibilities when reading your book. It will save you time later on in the process.

Send your mind map to your teacher before moving on to the next step !

Step 1.2 Study examples of newspapers

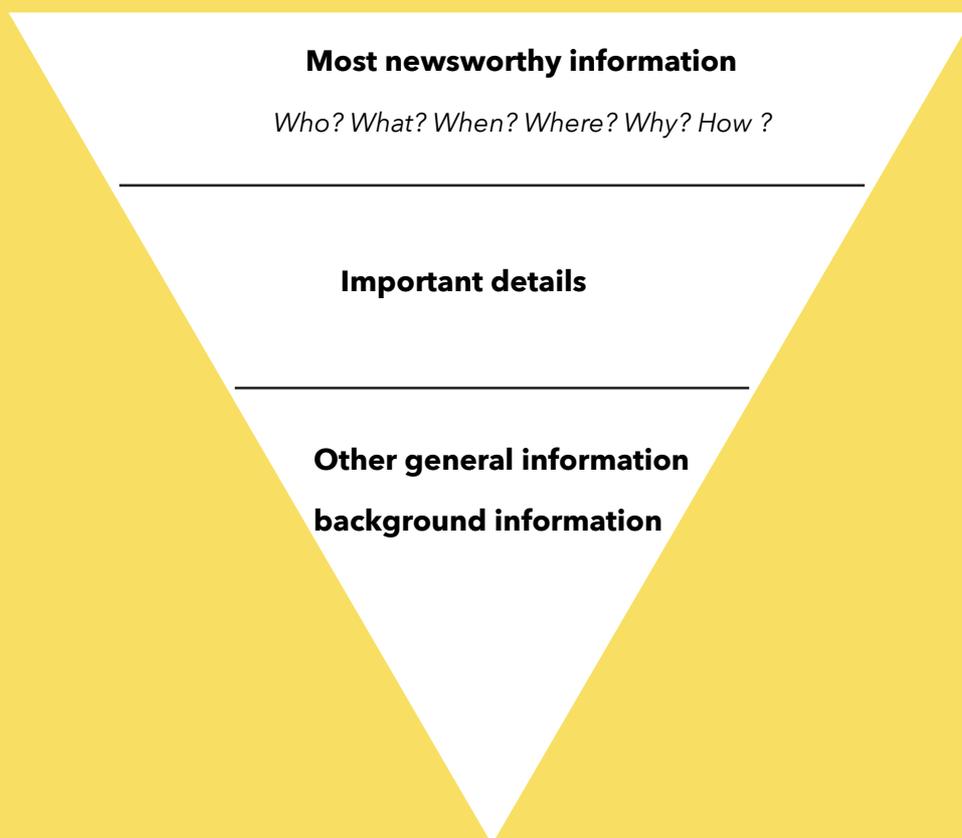
Study samples of newspapers before creating your own newspaper front page. Have a look at a couple of front pages from selected newspapers. What do you notice about the format that is different from other texts you read (e.g. black and white ink, graphics, headlines, column format). Explore a newspaper, paying attention to the layout. Study the front page first and write down what different parts you notice. Make a list of parts on your iPad. (e.g. title, headlines, pictures or graphics, captions, date, subtitles, table of contents/ index, etc.). You will notice similarities between different newspapers. You will also begin to identify sections and features that are specific to newspapers. Continue keeping the list of items on your iPad. (Additional items may include: editorials, cartoons, horoscope, local news, weddings, classifieds, advertising, etc.) When you read a newspaper, you usually scan the headlines, subtitles, and pictures and/ or graphics to see if the story interests you or not.

Step 1.3 Learn how to structure newspaper articles

You have just decided to create your own newspaper front page. Creating a newspaper front page is actually a series of tasks. You have to write a lead story, an editorial and do one of the extra assignments, all based on your chosen book. That involves reading, writing, reporting and editing. And you have to keep your chosen book in mind. Obviously, there are a number of things you will need to accomplish to produce a newspaper front page that is ready for publication. First, it is important to have a look at the structure of newspaper articles.

The inverted pyramid

The inverted pyramid format is the model for newswriting as it turns traditional storytelling on its head. In a short story or novel, the most important moment – the climax – typically comes near the very end. But in newswriting the most important moment is right at the start in the so-called lede. It simply means that the heaviest or most important information should be at the top – the beginning – of your newspaper article story, and the least important information should go at the bottom. And as you move from top to bottom, the information presented should gradually become less important.



The news story follows the lede

So the important aspect of structuring a news article is making sure the story follows logically from the lede. The lede contains the essence of a news story. The lede must communicate readers the key information of the story and get them interested into reading your newspaper article in as few words as possible (approximately 35 words).

Almost all newspaper articles start off by answering the six questions mentioned below. Try to answer these questions in your newspaper articles. They will help you to summarise and organise a newspaper article. Journalists use these five “W’s and the H” – Who, What, Where, When, Why and How.

- Who – Who is the story about?
- What – What is the story about?
- Where – Where did the event you’re writing about occur?
- When – When did it occur?
- Why – Why did this happen?
- How – How did this happen?

When you have finished including these in your article, you will see that that they make up the most important details of the story.

Accuracy and research

When writing a newspaper article, you will have to make sure that you get your facts straight. So make sure that everything you write is true, otherwise people will not believe what you read the next time. While reading your novel, take notes which you can use later on when you start writing your newspaper article. When in doubt, double-check the information, for example on the internet, just to make sure it is accurate. Use summaries, dictionaries and other reference materials to get the facts you need. Nowadays, more and more reporters are doing their research on the Internet.



Step 1.4 Templates

Here are a number of links to newspaper layout websites and templates to help you get started.



If you want to create a newspaper, you can do it through one of these templates. The procedure is very easy. Just download the template you are going to use. Once downloaded, open the file and start customising the way you want it. Create your own news headlines, articles and insert your own pictures. You can insert your text, images, change colour and fonts and titles.

You can use the Newspaper generator, for example. Type in your story, and the website makes it look like a newspaper article.

<http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp>

<http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2013/03/wonderful-free-templates-to-create.html>

<http://www.presentationmagazine.com/editable-powerpoint-newspapers-407.htm>

<http://www.zelfkrantmaken.be> Please replace any Dutch language !

You can also decide to use the Pages App or iBooks Author for a digital newspaper that you can save as a PDF and then print it. You can also save it in digital format such as ePub.



▶ STAGE 2: The actual product:

The creating of your very own newspaper front page.

While working on this assignment, you will learn to:

- improve your English writing skills
- promote critical thinking
- work cooperatively (if you decided to read the same book)
- research and learn how to write news stories
- identify the parts of a newspaper
- identify the format of a news article
- learn valuable writing tips
- write a newspaper story
- edit newspaper articles.
- add graphics/ photos and captions
- write headlines and think of a name and banner for your newspaper
- lay out and publish a newspaper
- use ICT equipment/ apps/ your iPad.



Requirements

Please note that your teacher may regularly ask you to share your project. This gives your teacher the ability to look at your work and send you helpful feedback.

Your newspaper must contain at least the following, but may contain more.

- **Your name (first and last), the title and author of the book, publisher, cover of the book, a masthead, date, newspaper banner.** (05 pts)
- **A Lead Story + Editorial :**
The two newsarticles (including headlines + by (name author)) consist of at least 300 words. Two newspaper articles with headlines based on events, setting and characters in the book. Be sure to include enough information in the articles to show that you read the book. (2X 15 pts)
- One **extra assignment** (obituary, 2 classified advertisements, word search etc.) (15 pts)
- **Creativity: Newspaper front page lay-out & Images**
Four pictures that clearly relate to the articles you have written. They may be hand drawn (use apps on your iPad) or photos found on the internet. (20 pts)
- **Conventions**
CUPS: spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalisation, complete sentences, sentence structure etc. (15 pts)
- **Vocabulary and language choice**
Use of appropriate language, well-constructed sentences, message is clear and easy to understand etc. (15 pts)

Total 100 points.

Please note that extra points may be given to reward exceptional WOW factors !

And last, but not least. Don't forget, you will have to present your final product to your teacher and your classmates in a three-minute presentation. Tell us why you have decided on this type of activity to recommend your chosen novel to others and how you have achieved this.

STEPS

If you follow these steps you should be able to write a good newspaper with the correct structure.

- 1 You are going to start with the **masthead and date**. The masthead is the title of the newspaper. Look at mastheads of several newspapers to find out the information that is presented there. Then think of your own **masthead** and **a date**. You will create a title that reflects the setting of your book or some other plot element(s). Make sure that the date reflects the story.
- 2 Design the **newspaper banner**. Make it catchy and pleasant to look at.
- 3 Write the **lead story**. The lead story is the so-called attention grabber: You want people to buy your newspaper based on this article. Be sure to include an eye-catching **headline**, to introduce the topic and grabs your readers and makes them want to read more. Use big bold letters to attract attention. Decide which type of newspaper article you would like to write. You can choose to write an informative article, which would report on the general events that follow the main character of the book. Or you could choose to write an advice column, in which one of your characters writes in to ask for advice about a certain plot point. Write a 5 paragraph lead story that explains the plot of your novel (approximately about 100 words). Write clearly, using simple words. Just imagine telling the story to one of your classmates.

And remember to answer the questions **Who ? – What ? – When ? – Where ? – Why ? – How ?**

The basic information is given in the first two paragraphs. More details are revealed in the other paragraphs. All necessary information to understand the story should be present. Ideas and actions need to be fully developed and explained. Make sure you stick to the facts and do not give your own opinion. Please keep in mind that this assignment is not the same as writing a book summary.

The plot should include.

- the main characters,
- the main problem that they face,
- events that lead up to how the characters solve the problem, and how the book concludes. Do not give away the ending of the book. You want your readers to read this book !

Please keep in mind that your article should consist of an introduction, a body and a conclusion (to tie the story together). The language used in the article should be appropriate (do not use contractions !) and use a variety of sentence structures and linking words.

Linking words and phrases:

To introduce and organise ideas:

First, ... To begin with,... Next, ... Another ... In addition

To introduce details:

For example, ... For instance, ... In fact, ... such as ... including

To compare and contrast:

Similarly	As opposed to	to have in common
Even though	In contrast	On the other hand
Although	Compared	Otherwise
On the contrary	Rather than	However

Tips:

- ▶ When writing a newspaper article, use third person in past tense. This means that you will also need to use third-person pronouns, such as *he*, *she* and *they*.
- ▶ Don't forget to write the column format. If you are doing an informative article, describe the plot points as if you are reporting them.
- ▶ One or two colour (!) pictures need to accompany your lead story. (Also have a look at nr. 5 – Pictures)
- ▶ Before handing in your newspaper articles to be checked by your teacher, check out the spelling of your words, especially people's names. Make sure your quotes are accurate.
- ▶ Be extra cautious when using numbers. Spell out numbers 1 to 9, and use figures for 10 and above. For example, "We have two houses and 12 family members. Spell out a number at the beginning of a sentence. It is okay to start a sentence with the number of a year.

4 **Editorial**

Before you are going to write your editorial decide on the best news angle. Do some research: use your book to collect information and facts.

Write the **editorial**. An editorial is an opinionated newspaper article that presents the newspaper's opinion, in this case, on your book. Remember, you are the editor and you are a critical reader. For this section you can give your opinion on the book. As an editor you want to change your readers' minds; you want to persuade your readers to agree with you or at least stop and think about your point of view. Write a 3 paragraph or more editorial that gives your opinion on your book (approximately 80 words). Remember, you're writing to persuade your teacher and other students to want to read the book. If you disliked the book, then your editorial should persuade your readers to *not* read the book.

Like other newspaper stories, editorials should consist of an introduction, a body and a conclusion. Add some punch to your conclusion !

Give detailed reasons for your feelings, and use examples and quotes from the book to elaborate on your thoughts. Do not forget to add a *By: + your name* to your editorial.

One (colour/ black-and-white) picture needs to accompany your editorial. (Also have a look at nr. 5 – Images)

5 **Images**

Before you start adding images and captions to your newspaper front page, have a look at some newspaper to give you an idea of the kinds of wording and information that is being used in captions.

Throughout the entire paper, add **four images** reflecting characters, places, and conflicts in your book. Draw (digital) pictures or search the internet for appropriate photos to complement your stories. You should add the pictures after you have typed out your final copy of the newspaper, so make sure to leave space for each picture. Make sure that each picture is neat. Do not forget to add a **caption** that explains what is shown on the picture.

How do you want to lay out your newspaper front page? Think of all the different elements (lead story, weather forecast, editorial etc.)

It is best to use the [Search Creative Commons site](#) to search for pictures.

6 Conventions

Of course being a writer involves good knowledge of English, think of **CUPS**: **C**apitalisation, **U**se of words, **P**unctuation and **S**pelling. Also pay attention to your vocabulary and grammar. Write and rewrite until you think it is perfect – make sure you get your facts straight before finally publishing your newspaper front page and use quotes to make your articles more interesting. Do your best for your readers and make your newspaper as interesting and as appealing as possible. Also use appropriate language

7 Extra assignment

You must choose at least one of the following assignments to add to your newspaper ! Whichever you choose, make sure that they **reflect** your book.

- Write an obituary for a character, if one dies in the story.
- Create 2 Classified Advertisements (i.e. a small advertisement that you put in a newspaper usually because you want to sell or buy something or to find a job) – these ads might describe someone or something that the characters from your book need or are looking for in the story. Make sure you add a larger subtitle to your classified advertisement. Please, do not forget to add a picture.
- Create a word search using 15 terms from the book – these might be characters' names, places important to the book, or other terms you think are important to the story.
- Create a comic, relevant to the book.
- Include the weather forecast, use the weather mentioned in the book.
- Include a recipe (used by one of the characters in the book).
- Write a feature article: a story or interview on one of the main characters of your book, or an event in your book.
- Write a short review from your book.
- Write a short biography on the author of your chosen book.
- A sports and entertainment story which is also mentioned in your book.



8 Newspaper Layout

Lay out the newspaper front page, placing stories according to their importance. The end product will be an A3 (2X A4) format front page. If the teacher has approved your end product, he or she will make sure that your newspaper front page will be printed in colour for your presentation. Please note that you will need to hand in your digital format a week prior to the final due date. You may want to use web links below to set up your lay out.



Here are some tips:

- ▶ Do not forget to include your name (first and last name) and form on the Newspaper front page.
- ▶ Try to set the moods and convey the 'feeling' of the book.
- ▶ Do not forget to check your newspaper front page on the whiteboard now and then to make sure the quality is excellent.
- ▶ Let other classmates, friends and even parents have a look and give feedback on your newspaper front page. It will improve your product in the end.
- ▶ And last, but not least: Don't forget, you will have to present your final product to your teacher and your classmates in a three-minute presentation. Have all the parts mentioned above arranged on your newspaper front page in a pleasing, eye-catching manner, and present your newspaper front page to the class. Tell us why you have decided on this type of activity to recommend your chosen novel to others and how you have achieved this. Be sure that you are ready !

CLONMEL DAILY

The best medieval newspaper

THE DEAD OF A KING

As the victory is celebrated, it is discovered that our king Ferris has been killed by two Genovesans while Will and Luciano were dueling. The one who planned the attack, Tennyson, has fled and is nowhere to be seen, along with several of his priests and the two surviving assassins.

His brother, Halt, has abdicated the throne to his nephew Sean, according to him a warrior and a worthy king, while his friend Will goes on ahead to pick up the Outsider's trail. Horace and Halt need to stay behind for a few days, for Horace's vision to recover as the drug wears off.

"He wasn't much of a brother, but he was the only one I had," told Halt when he was visiting his brother's grave at the cemetery where all the kings of Clonmel are buried. They then followed Will's trail's, going on with their adventures

What's the future of Clonmel? Will Sean be a greater or an even worse king than his father? Will the Genovesans come back? We can only hope it will not end in the destruction of our kingdom.



King Ferris is laying peacefully in his coffin to be seen one last time by his loved ones before he's burried under the ground in the cemetery of kings.

I kinda liked the book. If you hate books with 300 or more pages you shouldn't even touch it, but if you like fantasy, trilogy styled books, you're gonna love this one.

The Knights of Clonmel is the 8 installment of the Ranger's Apprentice and it follows Will and Gilan who attend the Ranger Gathering, but the abcence of their

former master Halt is all too evident, and Crowley refuses to tell them where he is. Skipping a few pages they end up in Clonmel where the adventure begins.

The book has some quotes like "He wasn't much of a brother, but he was the only one I had" and if you come across it

and if you come across it in a book store or a library I would rent/buy it if I were you.

For your best weapons go to

Smith's Smith!



Buy a horse at the

Clonmel Stables

for only

50 coins!



Weather forecast



15 °C

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