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WRITING THE NEWS

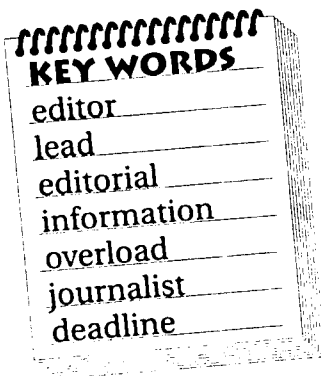
WHAT THIS EPISODE IS ABOUT

In this episode, students will learn tips and techniques for writing for a newspaper. By the end of this lesson, students will be able to

- ✎ define the term *journalism*
- ✎ describe how newspaper writing is both different from and similar to other kinds of writing
- ✎ apply the writing process to writing a news report
- ✎ write a well-organized news story with focused, well-developed ideas

VIDEO SUMMARY

The school principal visits the writing club to announce the creation of a school newspaper. The club members are excited and want to contribute stories to the new paper.



Brad, Lindsey, and Robin visit the Hillsboro High School newspaper staff to learn how the high school newspaper is produced.

At the next club meeting, a local journalist speaks to the group about news writing. He talks about the importance of having a strong, detailed, interesting lead for each story.

The students in the club brainstorm ideas for the first issue of their newspaper. Brad decides to write about Principal Thompson and his new plans for the school.

After interviewing the principal, Brad write a rough draft of his front-page story. Lindsey helps him revise the story to make it shorter and more focused.

Meanwhile, Brad, Bryan, Sarah, and Robin tour the local newspaper printing plant with another journalist. They learn how a daily newspaper is put together and printed.

Back at school, the students revise and polish all of their stories until the big day when the paper is finally printed and distributed to the whole school.

BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO

Give each student a page from a newspaper. Allow a few minutes for them to read the pages.

Ask students how a news article is different from an essay or a creative story. How are they the same? Write their responses on the board.

Tell students to watch the video to see how the writing process is used to write a news article

WHILE VIEWING THE VIDEO

1. After the students brainstorm ideas for their school newspaper, PAUSE the video. Ask your students to brainstorm a list of possible topics to include in a classroom or school newspaper.

Then assign small groups of students to each of the topics. Decide which students will gather information on the topics through interviews, books, articles, and other research.

Allow students plenty of time to gather facts.

2. After Brad interviews Mr. Thompson, PAUSE the video. Using the facts that your students have gathered through their research, have them brainstorm the best ways to tell the story.
3. After the writing-club members visit the local newspaper, PAUSE the video. Have students write the rough drafts of their news articles.
4. After Lindsey helps Brad revise his article, PAUSE the video. Assign groups of students to work together to revise their articles. Encourage each group to review the work of another group and to make constructive suggestions for improving the articles.

AFTER VIEWING THE VIDEO

After students finish revising their news stories, select several students to use a computer to lay out the articles in newspaper for-



mat. Make copies of the newspaper, and distribute them throughout the school.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

If you don't already have one, create a school newspaper. Get other teachers in your school to help organize the staff.

Accept stories, reviews, poems, and other writings from students and teachers. Assign two editors per classroom to revise the stories before publication. Print the paper, and distribute it widely throughout the school and community.

INTERNET RESOURCES

The Write Site

<http://www.writesite.org/>

Improving School Newswriting

<http://www.edvidnet.com/regtitles/reg-012.html>

Guide to Basic Newswriting (Medill Web)

<http://www.medill.nwu.edu/people/riles/rules3.html>

Time Magazine

<http://www.pathfinder.com/time/>

USA Today

<http://www.usatoday.com/>

The New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/>