

Grade 7 English Language Arts
Week of March 8 – March 12

Lesson 1: Introduction to Professional Writing

Preview

Writing Goal: E-zine (an electronic magazine)

Magazines tell stories; they tell stories about things that are happening in our communities, in the lives of people around us and in the world.

An E-Zine is an online magazine - it's really just a website that focuses on a particular theme or topic.

- Click [here](#) to read the Wikipedia definition for an eZine.

Let's look carefully at some online magazines. It is a chance for you to begin reflecting on what kind of website you would like to produce. Before you begin to make these decisions, you need to reflect on how a website can be organized and what its components should be. Examining what others have done is a good way to begin.

- [Canadian eZine](#) It has a little bit about everything Canadian.
- [Can-Teen](#) An eZine for Canadian Teens covering a variety of topics including Movie Reviews, Sports and The Outdoors.
- [The New York Times Upfront](#) A news magazine for teens.

There are many ways to create an *eZine*. An *eZine* can be very sophisticated or it can be more like a newsletter. You can do whatever you wish, but you are going to create a glorified newsletter-type *eZine* that will include pictures and articles written by you. You need to consider the important aspects of your novel that could be included in an online magazine.

There are many different aspects to producing a magazine including research, writing, editing, designing, advertising and publishing. Throughout this course you have learned many of these skills, now it's time to put them into action!

Workshop Overview:

- Identify the purposes of a news article
- Apply the Who -What -When -Where -Why -How writing technique
- Write an effective lead
- Use basic editing principles
- Apply basic layout principles

- Produce an e-zine

Writing Targets:

- Write a lead sentence that introduces the information in an interesting way.
- Include purposeful and accurate information, supported by appropriate resources, to fully explain the topic.
- Write a conclusion that ties the information together.
- Include appropriate vocabulary related to the topic.
- Vary sentence structure, using linking or transitional words as appropriate.

Novel News

You are a news reporter who has been following the recent events in your novel. You've decided to create an online magazine to present your research and opinion to share with other people.

Your online magazine MUST have the following:

- A title banner with the creative name of your magazine, the date, etc.
- A main article that covers a major aspect of the novel-the main conflict, the main characters etc.
- 2 other small articles, one should discuss how a character overcame a problem and demonstrated resilience (consider an interview)
- An advertisement with prices and items appropriate to the setting of the novel
- An [editorial](#) written from the perspective of a real or made up character from the novel
- A picture with a caption (can be hand-drawn or from the internet)
- Look at modern day magazines for formatting ideas

Helpful Hints

- Remember, news articles are written in 3rd Person- don't use "I" or "me" except when directly quoting someone
- News articles answer the questions- who, what, where, when and why?
- Remember, your task is to report on the details, however, you can add extra details not covered in the book to enhance your work
- Interview a minor character for their perspective on the events in the novel
- Include extras such as classifieds, current events, sports or a travel section, that are appropriate to the setting and to the novel.
- Add extra pages if you need more space.

Development

- *All necessary information needed to understand the story is present
- *Ideas and actions are fully developed and explained

Organization

- *Ideas are organized logically (Beginning, Middle, and End)
- *Topic sentence (the story lead) introduces the topic
- *Sufficient, appropriate details fully support the topic
- *Concluding sentence ties the story together

Attention To Audience

- *Enough information is presented so reader can understand the topic
- *Story answers questions the reader might have

Language

- *Vocabulary is appropriate for the topic
- *Precise, appropriate, and descriptive language adds meaning to the story
- *Variety of sentence structures and use of linking words or phrases, as appropriate,
- *Make the story easy to read and understand

Now complete The Main Article Notes on the following page.

Name: _____

Date: _____

5.1 The Main Article Notes

It's time to begin writing the main article for your Novel News ezine assignment. Complete the following template to prepare, this can be done in point form.

Almost all news articles start off by answering most of these questions. Try to answer these questions in your article about your novel.

Who: _____

What: _____

When: _____

Where: _____

Why: _____

How: _____

Lead Sentence (a sentence that includes some of the information above and that grabs the reader)
