

Grade 7 English Language Arts

Week of March 8 – March 12

Lesson 4: E-Zine - Drafting and Editing

You have worked on a few news writing skills. Now it's time to begin writing the drafts of each of the other necessary components:

- A title banner with the creative name of your paper, the date, the price 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)

You have worked on skills throughout the course that will help you be successful with creating these components. Be sure to submit the draft of your 2 small articles and editorial, so that your teacher can give you some feedback prior to publishing your e-zine and submitting for grading. You can access each of the dropboxes from the main course page.

You have practiced editing a variety of writing throughout this course. It is now time to look at editing practices specific to writing news articles.

You've written GOOD articles. But before you turn them in, **edit** them — go over the article again, fixing mistakes, maybe rewriting some things — and turn it into a GREAT news article. Here's how:

1. Make sure you have included **who – what – when – where – why – how**.
2. Don't editorialize. That means, don't put in what you think or believe. For example, don't write: "Science is the most useful subject you can take in school." That's your opinion and other people might disagree with you. And, besides, how can you prove it?
3. Write clearly, using simple words. Imagine that you are telling the story to your friend.
4. Check the spelling of all words, especially people's names.
5. Make sure your quotes are accurate and in the proper form, like this: "I enjoy being a safety patrol," Carol said. **Remember:** the comma goes inside the quote mark.
6. Numbers. Spell out numbers 1 to 9, and use figures for 10 and above. For example, "We have two cars and 12 children." Spell out a number at the beginning of a sentence.

Wrong: "120 children are in the fourth grade."

Right: "One hundred and twenty children are in the fourth grade." Or, "There are 120 children in the fourth grade."

It is OK to start a sentence with the number of a year: "2001 has been an exciting year."

Now complete, Edit Your Article.

5.4 Edit Your Article

Having read through editing skills specific to writing newspaper articles, it’s time to apply them! Practice your editing skills with the story below, and then edit your own article.

A large family of bats is pretty scary. They have started living on the roof of hammond elementary. Every night at that time of day when the sun is just going down they fly off the roof and circle overhead in search of food and then after about 1 hour they all return to the roof to sleep for the night. “Bats help the environment by eating mosquitoes and other harmful insects”, says Mrs. Robbertson, our scince teacher.

Re-write the above story with edits:

Submit this writer’s notebook to your instructor now.