

Writing

LO: To write a newspaper article based on an animation

YOUR TASK:

You are going to be writing a **newspaper article** reporting an event. In order to witness this event please watch the following clip:

<https://www.literacyshed.com/the-fun-shed.html>

I would **recommend** making some **notes** of key events and details whilst watching the video.



Remember: Newspaper articles are **informative, factual** pieces of writing, in some cases they may **sensationalise** news in order to make sure their newspaper sells ahead of others, this is because the media is a business that needs to make money. Your newspaper report should therefore be both informative and capture the attention of your reader.

You should aim to report the **entirety of the event** and include **eye-witness accounts/witness statements** of what various people, or pigeons, may have seen.

Remember there is a specific formula you can follow to achieve this successfully. Below are some examples from the Autumn Term when we wrote about the events in Macbeth.

Formula for a witness statement

Name of person + their age + their job + what they have seen / heard + quotation



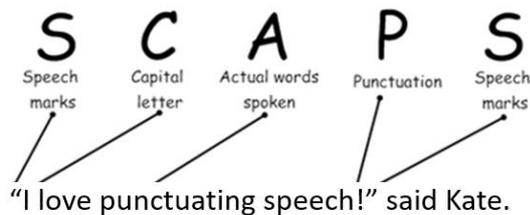
Witness statements or interviews

Who might have witnessed some strange occurrences on the night of Duncan's death?

- **Martha McDougal, 36, chamber maid for Lady Macbeth was tidying a chamber next door when she heard muffled whispers and a door slam...**
- **Rory McGinn, 65, royal chef to King Duncan, noticed that one of his knives had gone missing before the banquet had started but didn't think to question its whereabouts. ' Obviously I thought it was slightly odd but nothing out of the ordinary ,although I'm normally very careful with my culinary tools'**
- **A guard who may have overheard hushed whispers between two people assuming it was Malcolm and Donalbaine....**
- **Court Jester who was on his way to bed thinking the bell being rung at this hour was very unusual due to it normally being rung to signal dinner.**

Things you may want to consider:

- **A range of complex, compound and simple sentences** – this will allow you to explain the specific details of the events that occurred. It will also give your writing greater clarity which is essential for an informative piece of writing.
- **A range of punctuation** – in this piece of writing you could focus on speech, colons, parenthesis (brackets). All of which are often found in newspaper articles.



Remember speech marks are called inverted commas

Remember:

The punctuation at the end of the spoken words always comes **INSIDE** the final side of speech marks.

"I can't hold on any longer!" Alex cried.
"Put your pencils away," said Mrs Whitbourn

A comma is placed before the direct speech.

Alex cried, "I can't hold on any longer!"

Colon

1. Introduce a list.

There are three friends in the book: Harry, Ron and Hermione.

Remember to bring these items:

- a water pistol
- a unicycle
- a pogo stick
- roller skates.

A colon at the end of the introductory sentence.

Full stop at the end

Colon

2. Introduce examples or explanations.

It gives a little more information about what comes before it.

The bird eats lots of snacks: he needs lots of energy for flying.

Brackets

Separate additional detail or information

I spoke to Eliza (**her sister is a doctor**) about your strange symptoms.

I gave the bear a banana (**all I had left**).

Full stop on outside



The word or phrase inside the brackets, commas or dash is called a parenthesis.

Sentence Structure and Punctuation	Text and Organisation	Composition and effect	Spelling
<p>Complex sentence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectives – however, due to, despite, subsequently, consequently. • Subordinate clause <p>Capital letters for names and places?</p> <p>() brackets ()</p> <p>??? Question marks ???</p> <p>!!! Exclamation marks !!!</p> <p>Colon :::: Semi colon ;;;</p> <p>Hyphen ----</p> <p>Ellipsis</p> <p>Apostrophes – can't, didn't, haven't</p>	<p>Link paragraphs</p> <p>Ordered text with introduction AND conclusion.</p> <p>✓ A dash</p> <p>✓ A hyphen</p> <p>✓ A sentence with an adverbial (e.g. Before dinner, I...)</p>	<p>Address the audience</p> <p>Adjectives</p> <p>Adverbs</p> <p>Alliteration</p> <p>Similes</p> <p>Metaphors</p> <p>Rhetorical questions.</p>	

- In addition, think about creating **sensation** through a careful choice of **verbs** (actions), **adverbs** (how the actions are carried out) and **adjectives** (descriptive language).
- Use may also wish to consider **humour**, or **puns** (a play on words) as they are common features of newspapers as well.

Suggested Structure and Planning Sheet

This is an idea to help guide you, **if you have other ideas please pursue them, this is not a strict number of paragraphs.**

Paragraph 1- Opening description of the event and those involved. Who? What? Where?

Yesterday morning, 23rd April, our town of Cedarburg suffered a range of disastrous occurrences including (rumour has it) a launch of a missile, a flying briefcase and a possessed pigeon! Exact events are still unclear, however police have released an official statement and have retained a known suspect: Walter Beckett.

Paragraph 2- Background of key suspect (Walter Beckett) What does he claim to have happened which led to a missile being launched?

Beckett, a respected father of two darling children, has resided in our leafy suburb for over ten years and has been a pillar of the community. Here at the Cedar Express, we have discovered that Beckett has actually been working as a CIA agent, unbeknown to his friends and family, who all assumed he was business man at our local bank. The father of two has strenuously denied the claims made against him and states (would you believe) that “a pesky pigeon”, who was after his multi-seed bagel, “was to blame for the launch of the deadly missile towards Moscow”. This far-fetched tale has gone state wide.....

Paragraph 3- Eye witnesses accounts (Walter’s colleague, a passer-by who was chased by briefcase and....). What did they witness?

Cassie Dawson, 34, claims that she was walking down Madison Avenue, minding her own business, when “a possessed aluminium briefcase” began “stalking” her down the sidewalk. Describing the event as “incredibly terrifying”, she went on to describe the state of pandemonium the avenue was left in after the briefcase began to shoot lasers resulting in several vehicles bursting into flames. Agent Matthews, who was also present at the scene, has stated that he saw Agent Beckett crouched in the middle of the road, typing feverishly into his suitcase and “appeared incredibly distressed”.

Paragraph 4- Summary of article and a questioning of the reliability of witness accounts. Open ended question.

Although the exact events of the day are still unclear and there are many eye witnesses *still* to be interviewed, we are still not convinced that every piece of this very unique pie has yet been brought together.

Aside from this, remember the other features of newspaper articles that should be considered, such as; headlines, newspaper names and images.

Possible Headlines

Bagel Blowout

Pigeon Panic

Pigeon Pandemonium

Bizarre Briefcase Behaviour

Moscow Missile

Newspaper language and sentence starters

- Exact events are still unclear
- A detailed investigation has..
- It has been reported
- There were a number of unusual events that occurred leading up to...
- It was claimed...
- She told our reporter
- Miss Brown became more and more distressed during the interview and had to be escorted to her car by our camera man.
- It is rumoured that...
- Many believe...
- Sources suggest...
- Rumours are rife that...
- The local shopkeeper, Tim Donnachie claims...
- Our last witness requested not to be identified and would only speak to us through a curtain
- We have spoken to several eye witnesses including:
- After recovering from the shocking events
- CCTV footage revealed that...