

Choosing Good Stories

News Writing

TODAY

*We will learn how to **choose stories for publication that will interest and matter to readers, and know the difference between a story topic and a story idea.***

*I will **create a complete story idea** that could be used for our school publication.*

ON YOUR OWN

Read the following lede to a news story. Would you be interested or not?

Two students got into a fight yesterday in the cafeteria. They agreed to peer mediation and got lunch detention.

WHAT MADE THIS CHALLENGING?

People can't read minds. Here's what should have happened...

Editor: I need someone to write a story on volleyball.

You: I can do it. What about it?

Editor: There is a girl on the team who just got named to the all-state team and the MVP of the whole state tournament.

Otherwise, the reporter may come up with a different, and probably worse story idea. Then, everyone gets frustrated.

THE REAL LEDE

Mr. Simms riffled through the ledes we wrote and tossed them in the garbage.

He said, “The lead to the story is ‘There will be no school Thursday.’”

ON YOUR OWN

Read the following & write what you would write as the reporter

Editor: I need someone to write a story.

You: I can do it. What do you need?

Editor: I need you to go do a story on volleyball.

(The editor then leaves the room. You can't ask any questions.)

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ON YOUR OWN

Read the following lede to a news story. What makes it interesting and of news value?

Two principals got into a fight yesterday in the cafeteria.

ON YOUR OWN

Read the following lede to a news story. What makes it interesting and of news value?

They are public officials and adults fighting on school grounds, which is more newsworthy than a student fight.

WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED

1. *All stories should have strong news values. **TIPCUP: timeliness, impact, proximity, conflict, uniqueness, and prominence.***
2. ***Story ideas can come from beats, assignments, planned & unplanned events and observations. Enterprise stories are those a reporter finds on their own.***
3. ***Topics are broad categories that many stories could be about. Story ideas are specific angles to stories.***
4. ***Write story ideas as a broad question the reporter will answer in a way that matters to local readers.***