
Year 9 Headstart English

Module E: Writing

Term 3 – Week 11

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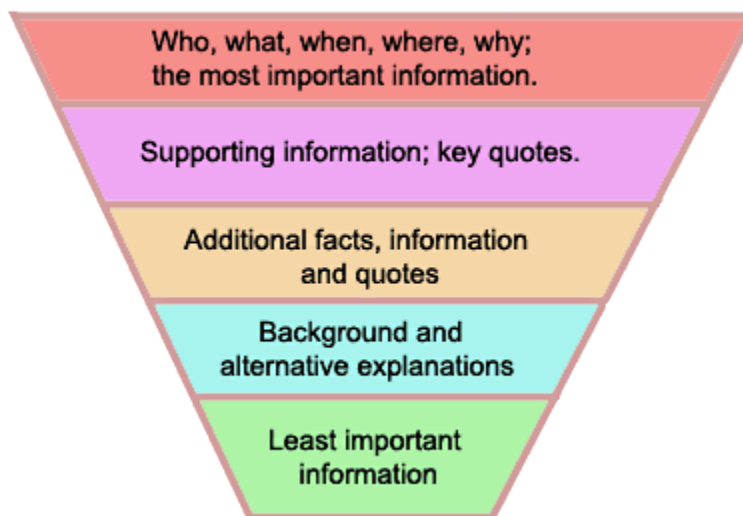
TERM 3 – WEEK 11 – THEORY

REVISION (STRUCTURE)

Consider the following schema of the newspaper article.

Feature	Explanation
Headline	All stories have a headline, which gives the reader an idea of what the article is about. Tabloid headlines often use puns or other techniques, such as alliteration, to captivate their audience.
Introduction	As the first paragraph in an article, the introduction is very important. Its contents tell the reader in more detail what the article is about. Research into how people read newspapers shows that most people read the headline first, followed by the first paragraph of the story. If the introduction is not interesting than most people will not continue reading the article. The first paragraph is often known as a stand-first, printed in a bold font.
Elaboration	The next few paragraphs tell the reader more about the story that is outlined in the introduction (who, what, when, where and why).
Quotes	Almost all news stories have comments from those involved or from voyeurs (onlookers). Their function is to make the article more objective by keeping a balanced viewpoint. Alternatively, they can make the article more subjective by sensationalising the reaction of the public and can indicate bias.
Projection	Many stories tell the reader what might happen next in relation to the event or people in the report. This might include a comment from a police officer, an MP, a family member or a general prediction of consequences or outcomes.
Bias	<p>Something to keep in mind when reading newspaper articles is bias. Usually, the views of newspapers are predetermined by their political ideology i.e. which political party they support. The <i>Daily Mail</i>, for example, is very biased towards the Conservative Party or right wing, whereas <i>The Guardian</i> is more socialist in outlook, or left wing.</p> <p>However, bias does not have to be political. Journalists can be biased towards certain types of people, places and organisations. Many journalists have been accused of bias for not representing a balanced viewpoint in a report.</p>

Presented below is what journalists term the 'inverted pyramid'. This pyramid provides a visual depiction of the structure of a newspaper article.



NEWSPAPERS AND LANGUAGE

Newspapers are an effective medium of communication because of the language forms/features that journalists use. Presented below is a list of the key language devices employed in newspaper article form.

1. Informal language: Characterised by short sentences, use of slang and colloquialism.
2. Formal language: Complex sentences, with no slang or colloquialism.
3. Colloquial language: Conversational language, sometimes characterised by the use of slang.
4. Persuasive language: The use of language to engage and convince the reader of a particular viewpoint/perspective.
5. Adjective: Describes a noun.
6. Adverb: Describes a verb; usually an action.
7. Noun: Person, place or thing.
8. Verb: An action word.
9. Pronoun: Replaces a noun (e.g. I, she, he, and we). 'We' is an inclusive pronoun, as it tries to include the audience with the writer or speaker.
10. Elision: Elision is the omission of one or more sounds (such as a [vowel](#), a [consonant](#), or a whole [syllable](#)) in a word or phrase, producing a result that is easier for the speaker to pronounce. Sometimes, sounds may be elided for [euphonic](#) effect.

11. Metaphor: A form of figurative language where by a comparison is manifest between two unlike objects or ideas, with the statement intended to be literal and absolute. These two ideas or objects are on the most part connected with the use of the terms 'is' or 'are'.

12. Rhetorical question: A question asked merely for effect with no answer expected. The answer may be obvious or immediately provided by the questioner.

13. Pun: A double meaning or play on words.

14. Semantic field: A recurring theme or image in a piece of writing.

TABLOID VS. BROADSHEET

Most newspaper articles appear in the tabloid or broadsheet forms. The most striking difference between tabloid and broadsheet newspapers is their language. Presented below is a comparative table of the broadsheet and tabloid forms.

Tabloid	Broadsheet
-Informal	-Formal
-Use of puns/alliteration	-Use of metaphors (rather than puns)
-Hyperbole/exaggeration for effect	-Rhetorical questions
-Slang/colloquial language	-Syntax (complex sentences)
-Adjective carrying sexual overtones	-Statistics (inductive reasoning)
-A focus upon experience	-Descriptions of people tend to relate to personality or position in society
-Frequent use of elision (don't, shouldn't, doesn't)	-Politicians' comments are often included, accompanied by the journalist's perspective.
-Syntax (short sentences)	

ACTIVITY

Read through the following articles and answer the questions that follow.

SMART TEENS ARE AVOIDING APPS OVER TRACKING, PRIVACY CONCERNS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2013

More than a quarter of teens have uninstalled an app after learning it was collecting their personal information. Half of teens have avoided certain apps altogether because of privacy concerns, suggesting young Smartphone users are well aware of what advertisers are up to.

A Pew Research Center survey released Thursday found 58% of U.S. teens surveyed have downloaded phone or tablet apps, but half of teen apps users have avoided using some due to privacy concerns.

WASHINGTON - American teenagers love their Smartphone apps, but many are avoiding them, due to fears about privacy and location tracking.

A Pew Research Center survey released Thursday found 58 percent of US teens surveyed have downloaded phone or tablet apps, but half of teen apps users have avoided using some due to privacy concerns.

The survey conducted with the Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society found 26 percent of teenage apps users have uninstalled an application because they found out it was collecting personal information they did not want to share.

Nearly half of the apps users have turned off location tracking features on their cell phone or in an app because they were worried about the privacy of their information, Pew found.

"Younger teen apps users ages 12-13 are more likely than older teen apps users 14-17 to say that they have avoided apps over concerns about personal information sharing," the researchers wrote.



"Boys and girls are equally likely to avoid certain apps for these reasons. There are no clear patterns of variation according to the parent's income, education level or race and ethnicity."

But the survey found girls are considerably more likely than boys -- 59 to 37 percent -- to say they have disabled location-tracking features.

According to the researchers, teens may be concerned not only about advertisers and companies tracking them, but their own parents as well. A 2009 Pew survey indicated half of parents of teen cell phone owners said they used the phone to monitor their child's location in some way.

Among American teens, 78 percent have a cell phone and 23 percent of teens have a tablet computer; 82 percent own at least one of these mobile devices.

The report was based on a survey of 668 respondents between the ages of 12 and 17 from July 26 to September 30, 2012.

QUESTIONS

1. Identify the form of this article. Support your response with appropriate evidence.

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2. Identify the literary device used in the headline of the article.

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3. Assess TWO language devices that have been used in the article.

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4. Explain how the image is linked to the semantic field of the article.

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RUDD SUSPENDS CAMPAIGNING FOR SECURITY BRIEFING ON SYRIA

JAMIE WALKER AND JOE KELLY

The Australian August 24, 2013 2:50PM

KEVIN Rudd is suspending his campaign today to attend a national security briefing in Canberra on the unfolding chemical weapons crisis in Syria.

The Prime Minister said in Sydney this morning he was aware of media reports that the US was readying missile strikes on Syrian government forces, but said Australia would not rush into responding.

"Let us not get the cart before the horse," he said. "These things have to be undertaken in a calm and measured fashion."

Under the caretaker conventions that apply during the election campaign period Tony Abbott would be offered a parallel national security briefing.

Mr. Rudd said he was not in a position to advise the Opposition Leader what he should do.

In Adelaide, Mr. Abbott said it was "entirely appropriate" for Mr. Rudd to put his campaign on hold and return to Canberra for the briefing.

The Opposition Leader and his foreign affairs spokeswoman Julie Bishop will receive a rundown from Department of Foreign Affairs secretary Peter Varghese and other officials after the Liberal Party campaign launch in Brisbane tomorrow.

Mr. Varghese was already scheduled to be in Brisbane to give Ms Bishop a routine briefing, meaning that Mr. Abbott would not return to Canberra.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Pentagon officials were updating target lists for possible airstrikes on Syrian government and military installations. In Damascus, the Assad government continued its large-scale military offensive in the suburbs allegedly hit with nerve agents last week, appearing to shrug off international revulsion at what may be the worst chemical weapons massacre in more than two decades, the Journal said.

CBS News also reported today that it had been told the Pentagon was making the initial preparations for a cruise missile attack on Syrian government forces.

"We say "initial preparations" because such an attack won't happen until the President gives the green light," the report said.

In an interview with CNN broadcast today, US President Barack Obama said allegations of a new chemical weapons attack by government forces on Syrian civilians were of "grave concern".

But he also pointed out obstacles to US military action, a year after warning that the use of chemical arms in the vicious Syrian conflict would cross a US "red line".

Mr. Rudd yesterday discussed the widening emergency in Syria with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and this morning spoke to US ambassador to Australia Jeff Bleich.

He was briefed by the secretary of the department Ian Watt before calling for the national security briefing in Canberra today with military top brass as well as intelligence and international affairs experts.

Mr. Rudd would not rule out Australian participation in any international response to the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria.

"Calm sober response means taking the information available at hand first, analysing precisely and carefully what has happened here and then carefully considering appropriate responses," Mr. Rudd said.

Mr. Abbott said, "obviously terrible things are happening in that country."

"It's very important that United Nations inspectors be allowed in to get to the bottom of exactly what has happened.

"I hope the international community is able to do what it can to try and ensure that the bloodshed ceases and ordinary human rights are once more respected."

During his press conference at the Campbelltown leisure centre in Christopher Pyne's South Australian electorate of Sturt, Mr. Abbott suggested he would not sit in on the briefing with Ms Bishop tomorrow but receive a run-down from her afterwards.

"I certainly will be briefed by Julie Bishop on what she hears from the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade tomorrow," he said. "And I'd expect to be briefed myself at some point in the next couple of days.

"Julie Bishop is going to receive a briefing tomorrow morning. I'm looking forward to receiving briefings. But I think it's quite possible for briefings to be had while I'm on the road. I don't for a second underplay the seriousness of this situation."

However, following the press conference, Mr. Abbott's staff confirmed Mr. Varghese and other high-ranking officials tomorrow would also brief the Opposition Leader along with Ms Bishop.

Asked whether he would consider lifting the Syrian humanitarian refugee intake, Mr. Abbott said it had been filled by people-smugglers.

"That's the problem," he said. "The entire component of our humanitarian immigration, the entire component is being selected by people-smugglers."

Asked whether he was expecting Labor to reset or reboot its campaign given the ALP's losing position in the polls, Mr. Abbott said he was concentrating on his own party.

"I'll let the Labor Party do what it thinks are in its own best political interests, but what I'm focused on is running a strong campaign," he said.

After inspecting an NBN training centre in Sydney this morning to announce plans to appoint a small business adviser to the government and a new national consultative council for the sector, Mr. Rudd refused to comment on a report in a Fairfax newspaper that he had met Bill Shorten to persuade him to ditch his support for Julia Gillard prior to the Labor leadership change in June.

QUESTIONS

1. Identify the form of this article. Support your response with appropriate evidence.

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2. Identify the literary device used in the headline of the article.

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3. Assess TWO language devices that have been used in the article.

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4. Outline the semantic field of the article.

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HOMEWORK

In addition to answering comprehension questions, you may be required to complete an extended response employing the newspaper article form. Utilising your understanding of this text type, complete the following question.

Compose a newspaper article (feature or editorial), with the following as your headline:

'You, me and the carbon tax'

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Lined writing area consisting of 30 horizontal dotted lines for student input.

You may attach additional paper if needed.

End of homework

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