

Student Link

Lesson Activity for Grade 9

(Language Arts: Manage Ideas & Info)

Student Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Writing creatively is never easy. It requires the ability to catch the reader's attention. Think about writing journalism pieces. These need to convey the information easily and efficiently to the reader while still keeping their attention. This lesson will give you some tips on how to write effective journalism pieces.

1. Click on "**Grade 9**" then "**Language Arts**".



2. Under the "**Manage Ideas & Information**" column, click on "**The Write Site**".

3. Click on the "**Features Desk**" and then trace the history of journalism throughout the history of the United States by clicking on the link.

4. Take a few minutes to read the timeline and the FAQ's at the end. Then answer the questions below:

- 5.
1. After reading through the timeline, what do you think was the most important journalistic event in the US? Why?
 2. Which of the timeline events do you think would have had a significant impact on the newspaper industry in Canada? Why?
 3. Throughout the timeline there are instances of reporters creating "sensational" news. What is Sensationalism? Can you list some recent Canadian news stories that may have been sensationalized?
 4. Many of the laws in the US protecting freedom of the press are the same here in Canada. In your opinion, does the press here in Canada go to far or not far enough in reporting on the news?

6. Now click on the



button at the top of the page. Then click on




7. Click on "**How to do Research**" and take some time to read through some of the pointers there. Keep in mind the areas of your school and community where you can get access to information sources.

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8.	Now you're ready to look at some style forms you could use for your writing. Go to the top of the page and click on the " Newsroom " to go back to the homepage. Now click on 
9.	Click on " Developing your Style ". Try out some of the exercises that are listed here. As the activities show, writing a story in your own way is a combination of a lot of things. How do you tell your stories? What three things did you learn? 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
10.	Now that you've had the chance to learn a little bit about the history of newspaper writing, and organizing ideas and developing your style, try your hand at writing a story about any topic in your school (Go to #11 for some help in writing your story)...
11.	Navigate back to the Grade 9 " Language Arts " page. Then click on " Thinkmap " under " Manage Ideas, Information... " The Thinkmap is a great visual Thesaurus tool for you to use so you can write a really descriptive news piece. Happy writing!! 