



# Lesson Plans

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**NewsBrands**  
Ireland

An Initiative from NewsBrands Ireland.



## Brainstorming Session to generate feature articles

Pages:

6



**40 mins +**

(session length dependent on group and/or time allocated)



Handout for Brainstorming Feature Articles. PDF to print/photocopy

### Material to be used

**Revisit** the “How to enter” section for the **Features Category** on page 6.

Use the prompts below to encourage discussion of ideas for feature articles suitable for the Press Pass competition.

- Students could **think** about the prompts individually writing down any of their own ideas
- They could then be **paired** or put into slightly larger groups of three or four.
- Their ideas could then be **shared** with the class as a whole in a plenary style session.

#### Optional prompts to generate feature article ideas:

- What topics or issues are you interested in?
- Do any specific people, groups or organisations come into your mind in relation to this topic or issue?
- What aspect of this topic would you like to focus on?
- What do you think you could use as a hook or an angle?
- Have any ideas on what your main points might be and how you could order them?
- Who do you think you could speak to or interview in relation to any of the ideas you have?

#### Optional:

You could now set a deadline for submission of a feature article which conforms to the competition rules.

Depending on your time constraints this can be done within class time or as an independent assignment to be completed in their own time.

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## Feature Articles...

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Choose one of the photographs from the Photojournalism section of the Press Pass workbook and move through the following questions. Not all of them will be relevant to the photograph you have chosen. Focus your answers on the ones which are.

1. List any topics or issues you can think of in which you have an interest:

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2. Circle the topic that interests you the most.

3. Write down the names of specific people, groups or organisations come into your mind in relation to this topic or issue.

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4. Write down aspects of this topic you could focus on or explore.

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5. What do you think you use as a hook or an angle??

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6. Have any ideas on what your main points might be and how you could order them?

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7. Who do you think you could speak to or interview in relation to any of the events you have thought of??

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# The competition

## HOW TO ENTER

As part of the Press Pass initiative, students and schools have an opportunity to enter our prestigious competition, the winners of which will be honoured at a national ceremony early next year. The competition has five categories: News, Features, Comment, Photojournalism and Sport. There are strict and specific rules for each category which must be adhered to.

All entries must be submitted via the competition section of the Press Pass website:  
[www.presspass.ie](http://www.presspass.ie)

## IMPORTANT!

- The work must be your own. It cannot be copied from any other source.
- News, feature and sport articles must be fact and not fiction.
- Any and all quotes you use must be taken from interview(s) you have conducted.

If you do not adhere to the strict guidelines, your entry will not be considered by the judges.

TO ENTER  
GO TO  
[presspass.ie](http://presspass.ie)



## CATEGORIES

### NEWS

For your news article, you can only choose from one of the options below:

- 1) Interview a local personality / politician / celebrity. Write the article based on your interview.
- 2) Identify an issue relevant to you, your school, or your area. Interview people relevant to your subject of choice. Write an article based on your interview.
- 3) Focus on an event in your local area. Write an article, giving details of what is / has happened, how, why, when and who was involved.

### FEATURES

For your feature article, you can only choose from one of the options below:

- 1) Write a profile of a person/ group/organisation you admire.
- 2) Interview a well known personality. Write a feature based on your interview.

Articles must be no shorter than 600 words and no longer than 800 words.

### PHOTOJOURNALISM

Photojournalism covers all the categories: News, Features, Comments, Sport.

Entries include photographs, graphics, cartoons or caricatures. All entries must be submitted in jpeg format with a minimum image size of 3MB.

### COMMENT

For your Comment piece, you can only choose from one of the options below:

- 1) Write a letter to the Editor of no more than 400 words.
- 2) Choose an issue that affects you, or something that you have opinion on. Write a comment piece of between 400-600 words.

### SPORT

For your Sport article, you can only choose from one of the options below:

- 1) Attend a local sporting event. Write an account of what happened - 400 words.
- 2) Write a profile of a sports personality you admire - 500 words.
- 3) Interview a well known sports personality. Write an article based on your interview - 500 words.