



Lesson Plans

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NewsBrands
Ireland

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Sport

Pages:

32 33 34 35



40 -80 mins



Click to download!
Handout for
analysing Sports
Writing.
PDF to print/
photocopy

Material to be used

Read through pages 32 to 35.

After these have been read, either silently and independently, or with the group as a whole each student should take a newspaper and do the following

Optional Sports Writing Tutorial:

1. Write down the name of their paper and date published.
2. **Source a piece of sports writing** in their paper.
3. **Identify** whether it is a match report, interview or sports feature article.
4. Write down the **headline**/ sub head and byline (if they are present).

Options for discussion/ analysis:

- If looking at a **match report**, select words and phrases the writer used to 'set the scene'.
- Assess how clearly or accurately the writer captured the action.
- Note any factual details included.
- If analysing an **interview** piece select words and phrases the writer used to 'set the scene' for the interview.
- Choose questions asked by the interviewer which were particularly good in your opinion.
- Decide were there any questions which could have been left out or write some that you'd have liked answered.



Analysing Sports Writing

1. Write down the name of your paper and the date of publication..

2. Source a piece of sports writing in your paper.

3. Identify whether it is a match report, interview or sports feature article.

4. Write down the **headline/ sub head and byline (if they are all there)**

Headline: _____

Sub Head: _____

Byline: _____

Match Report: (not all the prompts will suit your article) :

• Select words and phrases the writer used to 'set the scene' for the match? (where the game was being played, significance of the game, key players named etc.)?

• How well did the writer capture the action in the match described? (note phrases or words that helped you understand the sequence of events or the build-up in tension.)

• What kind of factual details were included in the match report?



Interview:

- Select words and phrases the writer used to 'set the scene' for the interview? (where the interview was taking place and when, how they introduce to the person they are interviewing, key information on the person given etc.)

- What questions asked by the interviewer did you think were particularly good?

- Were there any questions you'd take out of the interview or were there any that you'd like to add in?

- What was the most interesting thing you learned about the person from this interview?

In pairs or small groups decide the following:

- Which match report/ interview/ or article did you prefer?



• Compare the way the pieces of sports writing were similar using the points you made when analysing the pieces earlier..

• Which would be the preference in the group; match reports, interviews or in-depth articles on a sports topic? Why do you think this is the preferred one??

• To what extent did photos and layout add to or take from the appeal of the pieces of sports writing you looked at? Explain your answer.?

What makes a good sports journalist?

The ingredients that make a sports reporter are similar to that of a decent stew. An unorthodox comparison, but bear with us! No one dominant component brings about that delectable flavour, more a combination of everything flung into the pot. A good sports reporter possesses every kind of spice you will find in a kitchen cabinet, and more.

You can write, sure, but can you investigate? Can you sniff out a back page lead? Can you ask the hard questions? Can you go where no one else is willing to go? Above everything else, are you willing to do all of the above?

Many exceptional writers didn't or don't have the work ethic to cut it. Sports reporting does not entail sitting at your desk, waxing lyrically about your favourite soccer team.

Heck, most sports reporters have never seen the inside of an office. You are on the beat all day, every day and you have to know how to utilise that. If Henry Shefflin is cutting the tape on some new clubhouse in the middle of nowhere, get yourself there and ask him how long his injury will keep him out of action.

Come away with a story. Objectivity is another important rule. Credit where credit is due and likewise, criticise when criticism is called for. Last, but by no means least, a good sports reporter is one who is prepared to start at the bottom and work their way up.

Ewan MacKenna and Vincent Hogan all started somewhere and you can be sure it wasn't on the pages of this country's most respected national newspapers. All-Ireland finals and Six Nations clashes are covered by those with years of experience. Be prepared for U10 soccer games and schools camogie finals. The path ahead is long and winding, but know that when you eventually reach the summit, the view is out of this world.



AFTER THE BATTLE by Dan Sheridan



Pat Nolan
The story behind Gaelic games

Flanagan farce is just tip of the iceberg in Offaly

Top man Colm deserves more

By Pat Nolan

Colm Flanagan's resignation as Offaly manager has been a long time coming. It is a farce that has been in the making for some time. The story behind Gaelic games is a complex one, involving politics, power, and the struggle for the soul of the game. Flanagan's departure is just the tip of the iceberg in a much larger iceberg of issues that have plagued the county for years.

Flanagan's resignation was announced on Saturday, October 10th, 2015. He had been in charge of the county team since 2011, and his tenure has been marked by controversy and a lack of success. The county has failed to win a major trophy since 1994, and Flanagan's record as manager has been mixed at best.

The farce of Flanagan's resignation is a result of a long and painful process. It has involved a series of meetings, reports, and a constant state of uncertainty. Flanagan has been accused of a variety of offenses, including financial mismanagement and a lack of transparency. The county board has been slow to act, and the process has dragged on for months.

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Tips to becoming the best

Sport is news

Sports writers work to some of the tightest deadlines in journalism and are still expected to uphold all the same professional, legal and ethical standards, so having that solid foundation of what it means to be a reporter is fundamental. Sports reporting could take a journalist anywhere.

Read everything

If you want to end up as a sports journalist or, to be honest, any type of journalist, listen to the radio, monitor Twitter, watch TV, read the papers with as professional an eye as you can.

Follow the best in the business. Look at what they are doing.

Absorbing the styles and techniques of the best writers will not only help to influence your writing style and structure but also help to develop that eye for a story, of what is newsworthy and how to pursue it.

Irish Independent

SPORT

SATURDAY

LEINSTER 52 WASPS 3

LOWE AND BEHOLD

SWASHBUCKLING LEINSTER GET EUROPEAN DEFENCE OFF TO PERFECT START WITH MAGNIFICENT EIGHT TRY OF WASPS

Danish boss Hareide says he hasn't spoken with O'Neill since play-off fallout

Keane won't entertain talk of stopping Dubs' drive for five

INSIDE MONDAY'S Sport

Herald

Sport

THE FORM 12-PAGE RACING SECTION INSIDE

MANION TO EDGE IT FOR CROMES

BURIAN SFC SEMES: CHOPER PRIZES VINS AND DUBS!

O'NEILL: WE ALL HAVE A POINT TO PROVE

Irish boss hits reset button

IRELAND SNUB FOR DOHERTY

Keane is in line to take on UZ's job

Christie to get nod ahead of award-winning defender

CHAMPIONS CUP: LEINSTER WASPS

BLUES CRUISE FOR CHAMPS

48 The Title WORLD CUP 2018

IRELAND'S BRAVEST HEART

David Meyler led his country to a World Cup play-off showing the resilience and character that has enabled him to endure through a career that has had its share of setbacks

'KEANE SAID TO SEND HIM OVER TO SUNDERLAND RIGHT AWAY'

Over to you...

- Interview a local sporting hero. Invite them to visit your class for a questions and answers session.
- Write up a match report. Go to a game of your choice, take notes, try and get a few quotes and write up your account of what happened.
- Monitor and track a live game on the web or on Twitter. Record your account.
- Interview a well known sports reporter/columnist /editor. Talk to them about their job, how they became involved in journalism, their loves/hates etc.

Tips to becoming the best

Get the skills

The skills and knowledge employed by journalists are exactly the same as for sports journalists. The basics are the basics no matter which area of journalism you're in: speed, accuracy, diligence, hard work.

Get the experience

What potential employers are looking for is evidence on a CV that you have the motivation that journalism requires.

If you're offered work experience, don't just sit in the corner looking at the internet. Go to the editors and ask: What can I do?

Finding a niche or a specialism can make the difference in a competitive world because if you can show that you are as knowledgeable as anyone else in your field – be it tennis, golf, Formula 1 or football – then you have more chance of getting commissioned or getting that first job.

SPORT GAA: ALL-IRELAND SHC FINAL

A lifetime of dreams and hope have been invested by many Waterford supporters for a day such as this

WAITING GAME

By Alan Scahill

It's a day of dreams and hope for many Waterford supporters. The county has reached the final of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship for the first time since 1987. The match is being played at Croke Park in Dublin, and the atmosphere is electric. The crowd is massive, and the players are in top form. The match is a testament to the skill and determination of the Waterford team.

Waterford's defensive certainty reaping benefits all over the field

By Alan Scahill

Waterford's defensive certainty has been a key factor in their success. The team has been solid in defence, and this has allowed them to play their attacking game. The players are confident and relaxed, and they are showing the best of their skills. The match is a true test of their abilities, and they are looking to secure a victory that will bring joy to their supporters.

Sport

Cork's tale: from edge of abyss to champions in waiting

With a 12-year wait for a League of Ireland title possibly coming to an end tonight, Alan Scahill talks to those on and off the pitch who have helped get the team out of the shadows

It's a tale of two cities. One is a city of despair, the other is a city of hope. Cork has spent 12 years in the shadows, but tonight they are back in the spotlight. The team has been through a lot, but they are now ready to fight for a title. The players are determined, and the fans are behind them. The match is a chance for Cork to show the world that they are no longer a team to be underestimated.

Paul Rowan
Football columnist

Rice looking like a tasty prospect for Ireland debut

Simon

Paul Rowan is looking like a tasty prospect for his Ireland debut. The player has shown great skill and determination, and he is a real asset to the team. The manager is confident in his abilities, and he is looking forward to seeing him in action. The match is a chance for Rowan to shine, and he is sure to make a name for himself. The fans are excited to see him play, and they are sure to be impressed by his performance.

Sunday Independent

LADIES ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL FINALS 2018

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

By Alan Scahill

The Ladies All-Ireland Football Finals 2018 are in full swing. The teams are in top form, and the matches are exciting. The players are showing great skill and determination, and the fans are enjoying every minute of it. The match is a true test of their abilities, and they are looking to secure a victory that will bring joy to their supporters.

Dubs seeking to double up but to do so they must break Cork's psychological bind

The Dublin team is looking to double up, but they must first break Cork's psychological bind. The Cork team has been a real challenge for Dublin, and they are looking to prove that they are no longer a team to be underestimated. The match is a chance for Dublin to show the world that they are the best, and they are sure to make a name for themselves.

OPINION

Only in Gaelic football is smart, cynical fouling a K

By Kieran Shannan

Only in Gaelic football is smart, cynical fouling a thing. It's a unique aspect of the game, and it's one that has made it so popular. The players are clever, and they know how to use their skills to their advantage. The match is a true test of their abilities, and they are looking to secure a victory that will bring joy to their supporters.

Kieran Shannan



Kevin Kilbane, Irish Pride

By Rory Cassidy
Bridgetown College, Wexford

Learn from last year's winner

Preston, England. 17-Year-Old Kevin Kilbane is engrossed in learning Amhran na bhFiann with the support of his cousin. He is conscious that if he is going to pull on the green jersey in front of thousands at Lansdowne Road he needs to know the lyrics. Fast forward two years and Kilbane is making his Irish debut in Reykjavik.

Growing up in Preston in the 1980's, all Kevin ever wanted to do was play for Ireland. He spent hours on the streets practising football, wearing his Irish shirt. He was the first generation of his family to be born across the pond and that always lingered with him. As a youngster, Kilbane rejected the chance to play for England. He was aware it wasn't the future in international football he had in mind although at the time he hadn't been offered the chance to play for Ireland.

Throughout a noteworthy career Kevin handled many questions about his cultural identity. At the time the media in England branded players such as Kilbane, Jason McAteer and Matt Holland as 'Plastic Paddys'. It is evident that Kevin has a genuine grá for Irish



culture. He is often pictured in his Mayo jersey and supports his beloved county regularly. He works here, he lives here and in my mind and his mind, he is without question Irish.

'It just brought everything back from when I was a boy watching Euro 88, Italia 90 and USA 94 that this was where I always wanted to be. That's what I always dreamed of becoming: an international footballer'. In 1997, Kilbane played his first senior game against Iceland in a 4-2 win. Kevin affectionately remembers hearing the anthem for the first time and donning

the green shirt as an 'incredible feeling' and one that he would like to bottle permanently. He revealed to me that he feels that game 'shaped him' as an international player.

The pinnacle of Kevin's career was undoubtedly representing Ireland in the 2002 World Cup. Kevin felt 'overwhelming pride' knowing his family were in the stadium. It was his childhood dream and it had finally come true.

Unfortunately, that infamous night in Saint-Denis will live long in Kevin's mind for all the

wrong reasons. With a place in the 2010 World Cup and Ireland dominating, chaos unfolded. That defeat after the Henry handball fiasco still pains Kevin today. 'To lose that playoff in that manner certainly still hurts'.

Kevin was always emotional when he heard Amhran na bhFiann. 'I always thought about my family and what it would have meant for one of them if they could have had the opportunity to represent their country'.

I felt a remarkable connection to Kevin during this interview. His immense pride to be Irish is something we can all aspire to have. When 17 year old Kilbane was learning the anthem at home in Preston he would've only dreamed of having such an illustrious career. He followed his passion, you can too.

