



Lesson Plans

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NewsBrands
Ireland

An Initiative from NewsBrands Ireland.



Brainstorming session for sports articles



Handout for Brainstorming Sports Articles. PDF to print/ photocopy



40 - 60 mins +

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.

Material to be used

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

Use the prompts below to encourage discussion of ideas for sports 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.

Prompts for discussion:

Interviews:

- Students could list sports personalities they admire.
- Choose one person and outline the aspects of their sportsperson’s personality or career they would like to focus on.
- List some of questions they feel might draw out some of those aspects.
- Think about hooks or angles they could use to draw readers in at the beginning of the interview.

Match reports:

- Draw up a list local sporting events in which they are interested
- Choose one and note details they can remember of a significant match or sporting event. (Perhaps choosing a recent game or event which was of significance.)
- They could focus on:
 - Where and when did it take place?
 - Who was involved in the competition? (why was it an important event?)
 - Words or phrases which could be used to describe the weather or the atmosphere beforehand?
 - Note important moments or turning points in the game or event. (scores, fouls, sending offs etc.)



Sports Articles...

List sports personalities who you admire.:

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• If you had to write a profile of a sports personality you admire what aspects of their personality or career would you like to focus on or explore?

• If you were to interview a sports personality of your choice list some of the questions you would like to ask which might draw out some of those aspects:

• What do you think you could use as a hook or an angle to draw readers in at the beginning of the interview?

Match report...

• List local sporting events in which you have an interest:

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Choose one of the above and note what you can remember of a significant match or sporting event.
(Perhaps choose a recent game or event which was of significance to you.)

- Where and when did it take place?

- Who was involved in the competition? (why was it an important event?)

- Words or phrases you would use to describe the weather or the atmosphere beforehand?.

- Note important moments or turning points in the game or event. (scores, fouls, sending offs etc.)

Any concluding thoughts or comments?

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

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



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.