

Writing

LO: To be able to write an account using the features of a newspaper article

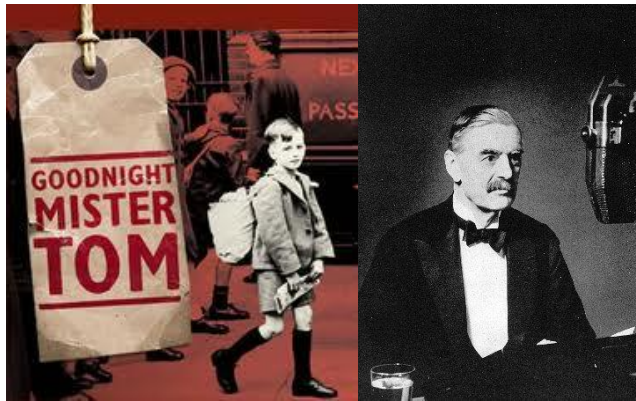
YOUR TASK:

You are going to be writing a **news article** based on true events from World War II.

As news **reporters** for the Weirwold Gazette, you have just been informed that you are to write the front page 'breaking news' article giving the details of Chamberlain's announcement as he declared the country at war.

In order to hear this event please listen to the clip provided in the table.

I would **recommend** making some **notes** of **key events** and **details** to help you as you write. Such as the key **information** and **phrases** that were said. You can then think about the **reactions** from the men, women and children of Little Weirwold.



Remember: Newspaper articles are **informative, factual** pieces of writing, in some cases they may **sensationalise** news in order to make sure their newspaper sells ahead of others, this is because the media is a business that needs to make money. Your newspaper report should therefore be both informative and capture the attention of your reader.

You should aim to report the **entirety of the declaration** and include **statements and reactions** about what various people thought of the announcement – perhaps other characters you have met whilst reading the book – when you have 'interviewed' them. This is something that will be made up.

Remember there is a specific formula you can follow to achieve this successfully. Below are some examples from the Autumn Term when we wrote about the events in Macbeth as you saw for your Pigeon Impossible writing.

Formula for a witness statement

Name of person + their age + their job + what they have seen / heard + quotation



Witness statements or interviews

Who might have witnessed some strange occurrences on the night of Duncan's death?

- **Martha McDougal, 36, chamber maid** for Lady Macbeth was tidying a chamber next door when she heard muffled whispers and a door slam...
- **Rory McGinn, 65, royal chef to King Duncan, noticed that one of his knives had gone missing before the banquet had started** but didn't think to question its whereabouts. ' Obviously I thought it was slightly odd but nothing out of the ordinary ,although I'm normally very careful with my culinary tools'
- **A guard who may have overheard hushed whispers between two people assuming it was Malcolm and Donalbaine....**
- **Court Jester who was on his way to bed thinking the bell being rung at this hour was very unusual due to it normally being rung to signal dinner.**

Things you may want to consider:

- **A range of complex, compound and simple sentences** – this will allow you to explain the specific details of the announcement that occurred. It will also give your writing greater clarity which is essential for an informative piece of writing.
- You should also **speculate** as to what this announcement may mean for the country and the future, as well as what details are yet to be clarified.
- **A range of punctuation** – in this piece of writing you could focus on speech, colons, parenthesis (brackets). All of which are often found in newspaper articles.

S C A P S
 Speech marks Capital letter Actual words spoken Punctuation Speech marks
 "I love punctuating speech!" said Kate.

Remember speech marks are called inverted commas

Remember:

The punctuation at the end of the spoken words always comes **INSIDE** the final side of speech marks.

"I can't hold on any longer!" Alex cried.
 "Put your pencils away," said Mrs Whitbourn

A comma is placed before the direct speech.

Alex cried, "I can't hold on any longer!"

Colon

1. Introduce a list.

There are three friends in the book: Harry, Ron and Hermione.

Remember to bring these items:

- a water pistol
- a unicycle
- a pogo stick
- roller skates.

A colon at the end of the introductory sentence.

Full stop at the end

Colon

2. Introduce examples or explanations.

It gives a little more information about what comes before it.

The bird eats lots of snacks: he needs lots of energy for flying.

Brackets

Separate additional detail or information

I spoke to Eliza (**her sister is a doctor**) about your strange symptoms.

I gave the bear a banana (**all I had**

left).

Full stop on outside



The word or phrase inside the brackets, commas or dash is called a parenthesis.

Sentence Structure and Punctuation	Text and Organisation	Composition and effect	Spelling
Complex sentence: • Connectives - however, due to, despite, subsequently, consequently. • Subordinate clause	Link paragraphs	Address the audience	
Capital letters for names and places?	Ordered text with introduction AND conclusion.	Adjectives Adverbs Alliteration Similes Metaphors Rhetorical questions.	
() brackets ()			
??? Question marks ???			
!!! Exclamation marks !!!			
Colon :::: Semi colon ;;;	✓ A dash		
Hyphen ----	✓ A hyphen		
Ellipsis	✓ A sentence with an adverbial (e.g. Before dinner, I...)		
Apostrophes - can't, didn't, haven't			

- In addition, think about creating **sensation** through a careful choice of **verbs** (actions), **adverbs** (how the actions are carried out) and **adjectives** (descriptive language).

- **Unlike our previous newspaper article**, I would **avoid** the use of humour or puns (a play on words) as it was a very worrying time for the country.

Suggested Structure and Planning Sheet

This is an idea to help guide you, **if you have other ideas please pursue them**, this is not a strict number of paragraphs.

Paragraph One - Detail dates and times and general information about the war announcement. Who? What? Where?

Yesterday, on the 3rd September 1939, the residents of Little Weirworld gathered together to hear Prime Minister Chamberlain's shocking announcement. His grave and solemn tone echoed around the village church as he spoke of Germany's failure to withdraw their troops from Poland, and he stated that "consequently this country is at war with Germany."...

Paragraph Two - The reaction of the British nation including quotations.

Spreading like a plague across Britain, children and the elderly cried and wept uncontrollably until the early hours. King George's kind words comforted the lost souls, with "I ask all to stay calm and united in this time of need". Ex-servicemen hung their heads with dread: war was approaching. A heart-tugging quote from a military soldier gives families hope, "All I can ask is that we stay calm and keep our loved ones close, family is all that matters."...

Paragraph Three - The reactions of the residents of Little Weirworld.

The spiritual atmosphere of the church was disturbed by the cries of disbelief from the villagers...

Paragraph Four – How to get involved with the war effort, next steps for the villagers.

Here at the Weirworld Gazette, we recommend you do everything in your power to make this painful time more bearable. Prepare yourself for the evacuation of children into the countryside and rationing of everyday items...

This is by no means a completed example, you will probably find there is so much more you will want to include, but it does give you an idea of what it should aim to be like.

Aside from this, remember the other features of newspaper articles that should be considered, such as; headlines, newspaper names and images.

Newspaper language and sentence starters

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Exact events are still unclear | • It is rumoured that... |
| • A detailed investigation has.. | • Many believe... |
| • It has been reported | • Sources suggest... |
| • There were a number of unusual events that occurred leading up to... | • Rumours are rife that... |
| • It was claimed... | • The local shopkeeper, Tim Donnachie claims... |
| • She told our reporter | • Our last witness requested not to be identified and would only speak to us through a curtain |
| • Miss Brown became more and more distressed during the interview and had to be escorted to her car by our camera man. | • We have spoken to several eye witnesses including: |
| | • After recovering from the shocking events |
| | • CCTV footage revealed that... |

On the following page are some images of example articles that may be useful for inspiration and capturing the right tone.

Run, Hitler, Run!

War declared!

A shaky start to yesterday morning as Chamberlain announced that our country is at war with Germany.

Yesterday morning, the local Little Weirworld church was flooded with residents anxious to hear our Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain's, announcement to whether or not Great Britain is at war.

After endless fiddling with the wireless Mr. Chamberlain's voice boomed around the building with a ringing concussion. Everyone carefully listened and the declaration went completely undisturbed.

Chamberlain broadcasted this announcement at the cabinet room at 10 Downing Street after Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazis, had not replied to the final note from the British Ambassador mean-

ing that he had not withdrawn his troops from Poland consequently meaning that we are at war with the Germans.

A state of shock and nervous silence hung over the villagers inside the church before being interrupted by a brown haired choir boy asking a friend if this meant no school although he claims it was not his intention for everyone to hear.

Your country, your duty!

Due to this your newly appointed A.R.P officer is to be Mr. Sanders who said 'he was honored to be trusted with such a responsibility and would not cause disappointment.' He will be on patrol so feel free to ask him for help or questions.

Please note your safety first strongly advised build either a

or Anderson shelter for air-raids as well as carry a gas box at all times. If this cannot be done please contact the Vicar, Mr. Peters for the whereabouts of the public shelters.

How to help

If you are also willing to help please attend a meeting tomorrow at 12:15 at the village hall to appoint roles, the more the better.

By Emily Milner

We're Coming Mr. Hitler!



Yesterday, on the 3rd of September 1939, the members of our town, Little Weirworld, sat in our local church and waited in silence, to hear that our beautiful country is at war with Germany.

Families and friends all over Britain were crying preparing and sighing as troops and many soldiers began marching and waving good-

bye to families, knowing that they might never see them again.

However some folks in Little Weirworld did not realize the severity of the situation as one boy in the church, a choir boy in fact, thought that this meant no school!

Obviously we are prepared to take on Germany. But how? Winston

Churchill has set up many army troops and some of our fellow members of Little Weirworld have gone off to fight. We say goodbye with them still in our hearts.

By Anna Anderson.