

Guided Writing Activity

1. Gather your information from a reliable source. Try your state highway patrol website or local police department website and look for accident or incident reports.

2. Use the following outline:
 - a. What happened?

 - b. When did it happen?

 - c. Where did it happen?

 - d. How did it happen?

 - e. Who was involved?

 - f. Why did it happen?

3. Now using answers to the following questions, compose your lede:
 - a. What was the most impactful, weighted outcome?

 - b. When did that event (the outcome) happen?

 - c. Where did it happen?

4. THE LEDE SHOULD BE NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS: Rewrite it here with editing if you need to:

5. Congrats! That's your first paragraph! NOW, your second paragraph will contain:
 - a. Why the news happened? (Because of who/because of what?)

 - b. Who is the source for the news?

6. Now you will put those two items together in a coherent sentence or possibly two and VOILA! Second paragraph.

7. And now, you will call upon your interviewing skills and contact the source of the news and ask about the incident. Some possible questions might be:
 - a. Was anyone charged in the incident?
 - b. Is there a history of accidents/incidents in that area?
 - c. How many of these incidents/accidents have happened so far this year and is there a plan in place to help reduce the number?

8. Write down what your source says here below. It is possible that your source might not have anything to say or might not be available. In either of those cases, you should report that you attempted to make contact but the source was unavailable.

9. AND FINALLY: You will take everything that you wrote in the following and add them together:

Answer to Question 4:

Answer to Question 6:

Information from Question 8:

YOU HAVE WRITTEN YOUR FIRST NEWS STORY!

