

**David Flanary**

John Sevier Middle School

Kingsport, TN

**Title:** Writing Captivating Caption

**Subject:** Introduction to Journalism

**Grade Level:** Middle School (Grades 6-8)

**Objectives:**

- Students will recognize traits of good photo captions.
- Students will be able to improve mediocre captions.
- Students will be able to write captivating photo captions.

**Procedures**

- Bell-Ringer:
  - Project/Handout one photo from a recent edition of the local newspaper.
  - Pair students and ask them to write a caption for the photo.
  - After five minutes, students will share aloud their caption.
  - Ask students to either approve or disapprove of the captions generated.
  - Ask: “What makes a caption captivating?”
- Main Lesson
  - Present students with guidelines for writing good captions.
  - Captions should answer as many of the 5W and 1H as possible.
  - Captions should also feature:
    - Captivating Title
    - Essential Information
    - Quote (preferably from a featured individual)
  - Next, students will be presented with a series of photos and captions
  - Students will be asked to improve the captions in pairs.
  - Students will then share their improved captions and further refine them as a group.
- Closure
  - Recap the essential elements of captivating captions.

**Assessment**

- Each student will be given a photo and article from past student newspapers.
- Students will be asked to use the information from the article to write a captivating caption.

**Resources**

- Newspaper photos (with and without captions)
- Student newspaper articles and accompanying photo
- PowerPoint with caption-writing guidelines