

1 Parts of a News Report

by Patrick Lashmar

Headline (sums up report content)

Subheading (expands on headline)

Byline (name of writer)

Lead (introduces topic and catches reader interest)

Frequent Use of Quotations (help personalize a report and make it more interesting)

Summary Statement

Pickerel Bounce Back

Restocking Efforts Pay Dividends

Betha Baker STAFF REPORTER

If Beaver Lake anglers start reeling in more pickerel, they will have the Tamworth Hunting and Fishing Club to thank.

The decline of pickerel stocks in the lake became evident as early as 2001. Lee German, club president, noted, "During the 80s, I could bag my limit of pickerel before lunch. By 2000, I knew I'd be buying my fish at the supermarket."

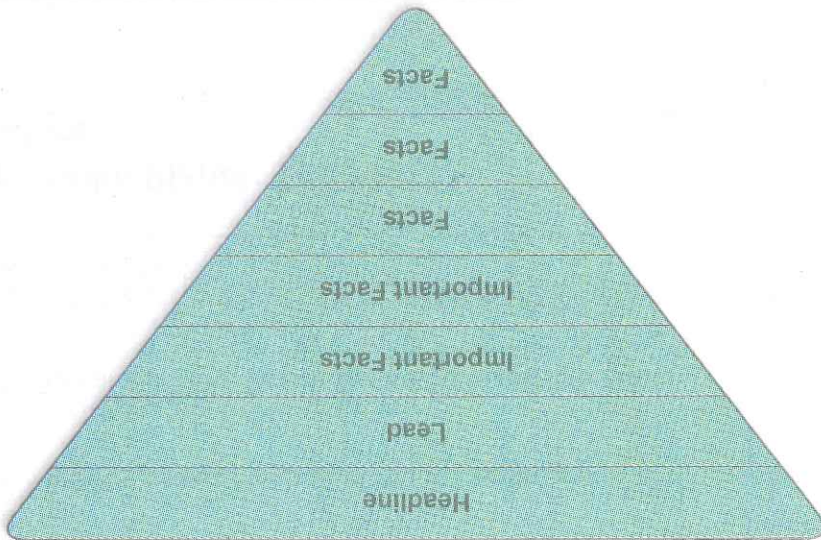
Joan Holmes, Chair of the club's Bring 'Em Back Committee got the ball rolling. "I approached my neighbour, Shelagh Tyler, to see if we could use three ponds on her farm as a hatchery. With Peggy Way from the Ministry of Natural Resources on board, we hatched 120 000 minnows in 2004."

Holmes boasted of "babying" the fingerlings until they were large enough to release. When the fish were 60 days old and 5cm in length, the young fry were ready for the lake. The young pickerel were transferred to large holding tanks and transported by pick-up trucks to the release points.

Compressed oxygen was pumped through the tanks to ensure the minnows were frisky when placed in Beaver Lake. The first truck full of minnows was introduced in front of Joan Holmes' boathouse. Holmes remarked with a hearty laugh, "Within two years I started eating pickerel again."

2 The Inverted Pyramid Style

- News reports are most frequently written in the "inverted pyramid" style. The essential facts are presented near the beginning of the report.
- Paragraphs are independent of one another, and relatively complete in themselves.



3 Steps to Writing a News Report

- Catch reader interest in the lead by creating interesting "facts" answering the questions, who, what, where, when, why and how.
- Use quotations to make the report more interesting, and to reveal the person's point of view on the subject; use non-connative dialogue tags, like "said" or "says" to maintain the impression of your objectivity.
- Include some facts to illustrate your topic.
- Be sure your news report is consistent with the headline and photo provided; an off-topic report will result in a lower score.
- Write in short, independent paragraphs of two to three sentences each.
- Write a news report, not another type of assignment (such as a comic, speech, etc.); changing the genre of the piece will cause it to be considered "irrelevant," and will result in a lower score.
- Write your report in the third person (i.e., "he said" not "I said")

4 Writing News Reports

- Use transitional words and phrases to create coherence in your report
 - Write in full sentences, using correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- In writing your news report, you should consider the following:

- Examine each headline and the picture that follows in order to find ideas for your news report
- Use the W5 (who, what, when, where, why) and how method for creating the content
- Your report should consist of many short paragraphs, rather than a few long ones