Literacy Test Practice: News Article

Rationale

The OSSLT includes requires students to write a News Article using a picture AND headline that has been provided. You will need to make up an event and then elaborate/expand with details.

Students are given one lined page for their written work.

The news article is worth 60 points for content and 40 points for writing conventions for a total possible 100 points.

Scoring Guide - Content

Key Items for the News Article:
- Consistent focus on one event
- Details provided (names, dates, places)
- Format looks like a real news article
- Avoids "I"- written in 3rd person- uses "he, she, they"
- Has a lead sentence and a concluding sentence

The suggested writing time is about 40 minutes.
**Exemplar**

**Code 60**

**Students Participate in Important Election**

On March 23, 2013, the students of [school name] in [location] took part in a very important provincial vote. Despite the rules not actually changing or giving power in Ontario, it plays a huge role for the Political Parties going forward. NDP leader Andrea Horwath said, “These young men and women are the voters of tomorrow. Through this ‘mock’ election, we can see who they believe will make changes in Ontario for the better.”

The election, which took place in schools province-wide, concluded with the NDP party with 50% of all votes, the Liberals with 35%, Conservatives with 10%, and the Green Party with 5%. Lucy Hall, (above, second from the right) was asked who she voted for. “I voted for the NDP party because they are a younger party, and their values appeal to me more as a young adult. As university begins for me next year, I feel the NDP will change education in Ontario for the better.”

With the Liberals and Conservatives typically leading the polls in the real elections, it cannot be denied that these results will boost the NDP’s confidence and campaigning going forward.

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Instructions for the News Article

Plan
1. Read the headline and picture and create an event that uses BOTH.
2. Brainstorm answering the 5 Ws and H. Also think about what you want people to say- quotes from witnesses or ‘experts’ will make this event seem more realistic.

Write
3. Write the lead. It should be a brief sentence that includes: Who, Where, When and What. If ONLY this sentence was read, the reader would know the basic event details.
4. Write the rest of the article, adding more details about the event, and explaining the Why and How in detail. Specific facts and names should be used to make this credible.
5. Write a final sentence that gives a next step, future action or a conclusion to the news event.

Review
6. Review and correct. Make sure each paragraph is only 1-2 sentences, and each is indented.

Practice Questions- from previous Literacy Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan:</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the event?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who (specific names)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where (specific names)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When (past event)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Why (cause/reason)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>How</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quote(s)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A checklist of the required elements for news article:

☐ I have clearly identified a single event that I made up (related to the picture AND the headline)

☐ I have added details to answer

☐ Answers: Who, what, where, when, why, and how

☐ The news report is divided logically into paragraphs of no more than 1-2 sentences?

☐ The paragraphs are indented

☐ I have used transitional words to link the events (next, later, etc.)

☐ I have included quote(s) from participants in the story

☐ I have used complete sentences and written at least ¾ of a page

☐ I have just reported the facts- not my opinion

☐ I have used the 3rd person (he, she, they-not I, we)