



Assignment #3: Feature Article

A feature article is considered to be a “main story” in a collection of articles, such as a newspaper or magazine.

It is a piece of non-fiction writing that focuses on one specific **person**, **place** or **event** in great detail.

Feature articles come from more traditional forms of media. These types of articles have generally been featured in newspapers and magazines. However, these articles are still very much present in world of online news sites. Online articles are often more effective in delivering information; as the information can be easily updated as events progress. They also have the advantage via their click-ability, as the author can embed images, videos and links to other relevant sources.

Feature articles are used to **educate** readers about a **specific** topic, as well as to **convey the essential information** that will allow them to better understand the **person, place or event** being written about. A feature article is meant to be **fact-based**, and **cannot include any personal thoughts or opinions**.

This means, you will need to do some research and **include references (a bibliography)**.

Steps for Writing Feature Articles

1. Choose a Topic

As always, the topic of your article should be related to the overall topic of your website. Your assignment should focus on a **specific event, location, or notable person** related to the topic of your blog. The focus of the article can examine an event, place or person from any time period.

Your article can fall into the following genres:

- **Personality Feature** describes an individual & their contribution to a specific field of interest
- **News Feature** – outlines the details of a recent/current event (“breaking news”)
- **Informational Feature** – provides detailed info about a specific location (city, restaurant, etc.)
- **Historical Feature** – describes a significant person, place or moment in history, and how it has impacted our present-day lives

2. Start Brainstorming (it’s also time for research)

Think about a specific person, place, or event that has had a great impact on your general topic.

After you’ve decided on the genre and topic of your article, determine what you know and need to know about your topic. Make notes outlining the *who, what, where, when, how, and why* of your given topic.

Any gaps in information can be gathered through research.

You **MUST cite all of your sources**, and you **MUST** record all quoted or paraphrased information in a list of sources at the end of your blog post.

3. Structuring Your Feature Article

A feature article follows the general structure of an essay, and includes an **introduction, body & conclusion**.

- **Title/Headline:**
 - Grabs your reader's attention & encourages them to keep reading (descriptive/vivid language)
 - Informs the reader on your topic
 - Eg. *The Dark Saga of Katie Bouman*
- **Introduction/Lead:**
 - NO HOOK
 - Background Information: briefly introduce the: **what, who, where** and **when** of your topic
 - *Katie Bouman is a postdoctoral fellow at MIT and a member of the team running Event Horizon Telescope [in an] effort to **capture visual evidence of a black hole for the first time**. After astronomers released the first image of a black hole **last week**, Bouman's portrait spread across the internet just as rapidly, on social media and in news stories. Her face, slightly blurry but beaming, was everywhere...*
 - Thesis Statement: States the **importance** of your specific topic (thesis statement).
This marks an important discovery in science, and Katie Bouman represents great progress for women in the field of modern science.
- **Body:**
 - 3 detailed passages that explain and elaborate on key facts about your topic
 - Provides current statistics and/or quotes from experts on your topic where necessary
- **Conclusion:**
 - Closing **quotation** (What has been said about your topic? This quote should summarize the key idea of your article)
 - Restates the importance/relevance of the event, person or place to the world (**thesis**)
 - *Katie however does not attempt to take all the credit herself. In response to all of the attention she has received for her ground-breaking achievement she states: "No one algorithm or person made this image... It required the amazing talent of a team of scientists from around the globe and years of hard work to develop the instrument, data processing, imaging methods, and analysis techniques that were necessary to pull off this seemingly impossible feat." Regardless, she was one of many that helped to change the face of science forever.*

***Tips to Remember When Writing Your Article

- Avoid using "I" – stick to third person
 - ~~*In my opinion, poor waste management will affect the ocean's health long term.*~~
 - *The issue of poor waste management will affect the ocean's health long term.*
- Keep it brief, but detailed (**approximately 900 words**)
 - Think about the length of an actual news piece, and only include the most relevant information.
- Use numbers & statistics to help prove your argument.
 - Numbers help to bring the topic to life, and allow your reader to better contextualize its importance.
*Katie Bouman and her team spent **three years** building the imaging code and algorithm that allowed for the capture of the black hole. (BBC, April 2019)*
- Use quotations from experts
 - Sharing similar opinions from experts on your topic will bring more dynamic to your article; thus, readers are more likely to feel convinced by the importance of your feature.
It is important to note that a picture was also captured of Bouman "triumphantly beaming as the image of the black hole materialised on her computer screen" as this ensures that "Bouman's indispensable role [is] not written out of history – as so often has been the case for female scientists and researchers" (BBC, April 2019).

*****FINAL CHECKLIST**

My introduction includes:

- ☐ Background information on article topic (*who, what, where, when, how*)
- ☐ A clear stated purpose (**thesis** – why is this topic important)

The body of my list article includes:

- ☐ Clear topic sentences and transitions
- ☐ Specific facts and supporting details that outline the importance of your topic
- ☐ A quote from an expert
- ☐ A statistic (specific numbers – percentage, dollar amount, population, etc.)
- ☐ Correct citations (for outside quotes)

My conclusion includes:

- ☐ Restates purpose of your article
- ☐ Closing quotation

My overall article includes:

- ☐ **~900 words**
- ☐ Concise language
- ☐ Written in **THIRD PERSON**
- ☐ At least two relevant images or videos
- ☐ At least two relevant **#hashtags**
- ☐ List of sources for all referenced articles and images written in MLA