

Name:

News: Fake or Real?

Write a news article based on the photo below, your article can be true or fake.



Guidelines for the assignment:

- You will need to write a full news report
- Begin with a catchy title
- Your lead paragraph will need to answer the following questions:
 - Who, What, Where, When, Why, How
- The news report must be written in 3rd person
- Include a couple of quotes
- Use the past tense, as the event has happened
- If/when referring to people, use both names
- You should have between 4 to 6 paragraphs with 2 to 3 sentences in each paragraph
- Use specific and supporting details that related directly to the story
- The news report must reflect the photo and the headline

Notes for the Teacher:

The idea behind having students write a news report or fake news story is to learn how to write effective news reports.

For this activity, students can look at the photo and **invent** a news report (*local tornado, man pushes tree over car, road rage*) or **research** something. (*tornado event*).

To introduce the activity, show some photos and have students brainstorm what the news behind the photo could be. I may be worth reading a few news reports to observe the following requirements of news reports.

Review the requirements to write an effective news report:

- News is written quite formally and in a serious tone as it is a factual account of an event
- News is written in past tense as it has already happened
- News is written in the 3rd person
- News headlines capture the reader's attention, remember, the headline and photo almost convey the event
- News paragraphs are usually short and include details about the event
- News reports often contain quotes
- News almost always answers the questions *Who, What, When, Where, Why and How* which are usually answered at the beginning of the news report in the leading paragraph
- News is written clearly with easy to read clear and concise language
- News reports will contain transition words to link the sequence of events
- News reports should be written with an unbiased tone

Title → **Lead Paragraph** → **Body Paragraphs** → **Summary—Wrap it up**
Catchy → *(Contains 5-W)* → *(Expand facts, add details and quotes)* → *(Short, a clue about next steps, future plans)*

In Summary— have students present their news report and have the audience determine whether it's true or fake. Audience should be prepared to state why they feel the story is fake or true.