



Especially for kids and their families

The Mini Page

Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
© 2000 The Mini Page Publishing Company Inc.



HOUSTON CHRONICLE

By BETTY DEBNAM

Saturday, March 4, 2000

Celebrate NIE Week

from The Mini Page by Betty Debnam © 2000 The Mini Page Publishing Company Inc.

How to Write a News Story

Putting out a school newspaper is a cool way to learn about newspapers and also to develop many skills.

<p>1. Plan</p> <p>A SCIENTIST DISCOVERED DINOSAUR BONES NEARBY. I'LL COVER THE STORY.</p> <p>Meet with the staff to discuss what's happening. Out of the meeting comes your story idea.</p>	<p>4. Draft</p> <p>WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE.</p> <p>Write down your facts and organize your information.</p> <p>Newspaper stories are different from stories that tell a tale.</p> <p>Tale-telling stories Stories that tell a tale are in this style, or form. The story pyramid is inverted, or upside down.</p> <p>Example of the beginning of a story telling a tale: "Once upon a time there lived a young girl who ..."</p> <p>Slow beginning The details build up the suspense. A climax at the end.</p>	<p>5. Check</p> <p>Check the facts to make certain they are correct.</p> <p>DR. JONES, DID YOU SAY THAT THE BONE WAS 5 FEET LONG?</p>
<p>2. Think</p> <p>I ALREADY KNOW A LOT ABOUT DINOSAURS.</p> <p>Make a list of what you already know about the subject. Then make a list of what you want to find out.</p>	<p>Newspaper stories Rather than trying to build up suspense, newspaper stories put important facts first.</p> <p>Who, When, What, Where Why and How Less important details.</p> <p>An example of the beginning of a newspaper story: "Cinderella and the Prince will marry on Sunday morning at the palace. The romance began ..."</p>	<p>6. Revise</p> <p>I WILL USE SPELL-CHECK AND ALSO DOUBLE-CHECK THE PUNCTUATION.</p> <p>Revise your story and read for correct form.</p>
<p>3. Research</p> <p>DR. JONES, HOW DID YOU IDENTIFY THE BONE?</p> <p>Read about the subject. Interview an expert. Surf the Internet for information.</p> <p>The week of March 6-10 is Newspaper in Education Week, set aside to remind us how important newspapers are as a lifetime source of information.</p>	<p>7. Submit</p> <p>IT'S FUN PASSING ON FACTS TO MY READERS.</p> <p>Submit your story to an editor to be checked. Meet your deadline!</p>	<p>The Mini Page thanks Pat Fege, administrator of language arts, Fairfax County, Va., Public Schools; and Dr. Carole Riggs, Ed. D., principal, Willow Springs School, Fairfax County Public Schools, for help with this issue.</p>