

## **Write On Wednesday with The Seattle Times**

**July 13, 2016**

### **Learning Objectives**

- Students will analyze newspaper leads to determine how they contribute to the overall development of the article.
- Students will write leads for a newspaper article to inform readers about a topic.

### **CCSS Standards**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.5

Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7-12.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

### **Materials**

- **Tuesday, July 13, 2015** in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times
- **Computers (and/or pencil and paper)**

### **Warm Up: What is a lead?**

A lead is the opening sentence or paragraph of a newspaper article. Typically leads will emphasize answering some or all of the following questions about the article: who, what, when, where, why, and how. See if you can identify which of these questions are answered in the leads for the following stories from the Tuesday, July 12, 2016 Seattle Times:

- “‘Pokemon Go’ goes big’, Main, A1
- ‘Russian Balloonist lifts off in Australia for global attempt’, Main, A2
- ‘WSDOT humbled by error that caused 7-hour bridge shutdown’, NW Tuesday, B2

After reading these articles and their leads, which lead do you think was the most effective? Why?

### **Reading: Leads**

The following leads are from the Tuesday, July 12th edition of The Seattle Times, however (unlike the versions in the newspaper) they contain errors and are missing some important

information. As you read, think about how you could fix the lead. What information is being left out? How can you make the lead more interesting? When you finish marking up your suggestions for the leads, find the story in the newspaper and compare the actual version of the lead to what you suggested. Discuss with a partner: How did the errors in the leads change their effectiveness?

- 1) Transient deer sneak around Seattle's greenbelts. Seven pairs of peregrine falcons have claimed perches in area trees. Coyotes patrol parks by cover of night. Seattle hosts wildlife galore.

*From: "Birds, beavers, bats and rats: the wildlife Seattle lives with", NW Tuesday, B1*

- 2) "Families of victims of Palestinian attacks filed a \$1 billion lawsuit, their lawyers said Monday."

*From: "Facebook a tool of Hamas, \$1 billion lawsuit contends", Main A5*

- 3) If you had been out and about in Seattle this past weekend, you would have likely come across the latest craze: "Pokémon Go." The mobile game app had made players flock from their homes to explore the city and make new friends in their quest to become Pokémon masters. The mobile app also breaks down barriers. It has also prompted a sense of community. It has also prompted more exploration of the city.

*From: "Exercise, discovery, new friendships all in a game", Main, A9*

### **Write On:**

Write a lead for a story with the following set of facts (or make up your own):

- Who: Teachers at Pine Creek Elementary.
- What: Have eliminated the practice of giving homework.
- When: This year.
- Where: Pine Creek Elementary.
- Why: A recent study showed that homework made no actual effect on the amount that students learn.
- How: Instead, students are required to stay in school for an extra hour each day.

### **Lead Answers:**

- “Pokemon Go’ goes big’, Main, A1
  - What: “Pokemon Go”
  - When: the past week
  - Where: Seattle
  - Why: People playing Pokémon go
- ‘Russian Balloonist lifts off in Australia for global attempt’, Main, A2
  - Who: A Russian Balloonist
  - What: launched a balloon
  - When: On Tuesday
  - Where: in Perth
  - Why: To set a record for flying around the world non-stop
- ‘WSDOT humbled by error that caused 7-hour bridge shutdown’, NW Tuesday, B2
  - What: seven-hour shutdown of the Hood Canal Bridge
  - When: Sunday
  - Where: Hood Canal Bridge
  - Why: Human error
  - How: The raised lift span was stuck at an uneven angle