



Digital Media Production/Advanced Digital Media Production

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Friday, April 24, 2020



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Overall Lesson: **Caption Writing (day 2 of 2)**

Lesson for Friday, April 24, 2020: captions

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will be able to write an extended summary caption in the correct format.



Background Information

If you haven't viewed the first caption writing lesson, click [HERE](#) to learn about the basic format for writing extended summary captions.

Remember these five important elements of an extended summary caption.

1. Don't start a caption with a name.
2. The most important information to include in the first sentence is the WHO and WHAT.
3. The first sentence should be written in present tense.
4. The second sentence should be written in past tense.
5. The second sentence should contain QUALITY information that is not obvious from looking at the picture.



Warm Up/Bellringer

Why is it important to include a caption with each picture? Everyone who went to school that year knows what's happening in the picture. What's the point of writing out everything under the picture?



Warm Up/Bellringer ANSWER

Remember, your audience or “viewers” includes more than just the students and staff at your school. Parents, community members and people from other schools may look at your publication. As journalists, we have a responsibility to inform our audience--not just entertain them with photography.

Warm Up/Bellringer ANSWER

In addition, you may NOT remember the name of the person in the picture at your 10 year high school reunion.

by Susan Duncan
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Writing Captions

Believe it or not, you won't remember a lot of your classmates ten years from now. Capture their history with strong captions.



Lesson/Activity #1

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

In order to write an effective and informative caption, you need to start with the right information. This starts with asking the right questions. REMINDER: A **close-ended question** is answered with yes/no or a one-two word answer. (EX: Did you go to prom? What grade are you in?) An **open-ended question** will give you more information. (EX: What did you enjoy most about this assignment? Why did you choose to run for STUCO president?)

Lesson/Activity #1 (cont.)

PREPARING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Using this photograph, generate a list of 7-10 questions for the subject in the photo. Use open-ended questions whenever possible. Of course, don't forget to ask the 5 W's and H with your questions.



Lesson/Activity #1 ANSWER

Did you include questions like these?

- What is your name (first and last)?
- What grade are you in?
- Where were you sledding?
- Why were you sledding?
- Who were you with?
- When was this?
- What did you do after you went sledding?
- What was the best part of this experience?
- What was the worst part?



Lesson/Activity #2

INTERVIEWING YOUR SUBJECT

ASSIGNMENT: Find a friend or family member to pretend to be the person in the picture and answer your questions.

(If you can't find someone to interview, use the answers on the next slide.)

Lesson/Activity #2 (cont.)

SAMPLE INTERVIEW ANSWERS

- What is your name (first and last)?
Paislee Johnson
- What grade are you in? **10th**
- Where were you sledding? **We were at the big hill by Chrisman.**
- Why were you sledding? **It was the first snow day of the year, and I wanted to get out of the house.**
- Who were you with? **My best friend, Joanna Rivas, was with me.**
- When was this? **It was about 2:00 in the afternoon on December 16.**
- What did you do after you went sledding? **We went home to my house and drank hot chocolate.**
- What was the best part of this experience? **The best part was the thrill of sledding down the hill and seeing how fast we could go.**
- What was the worst part? **The worst part was walking back up the hill.**



Lesson/Activity #3

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

ASSIGNMENT: Using the extended caption format, write a caption for this picture based on the answers you received.

- Use one of these [175 Caption Starters](#) to begin your caption.
- Remember, you don't have to use ALL of the information you got from your interview in your caption.
- You can use a quote for the second sentence.



Lesson/Activity #3 ANSWER

Here are some effective caption examples:

- On the first snow day of the year, Paislee Johnson (10th) sleds down the hill by Chrisman with her friend, Joanna Riaz. After sledding, they went home and had hot chocolate.
- With her friend Joanna Riaz, Paislee Johnson (10th) sleds down the hill by Chrisman. “The worst part was walking back up the hill,” Paislee said.
- With the wind blowing in her face, Paislee Johnson (10th) sleds down the hill by Chrisman. “The best part was the thrill of sledding down the hill and seeing how fast we could go,” Paislee said.



Lesson/Activity #4

COMMON PITFALLS

WRONG: On the first snow day, Paislee Johnson (10th) is sledding down the hill by Chrisman. (use “sleds” instead of “is sledding”)

WRONG: “It was the first snow day of the year, and I wanted to get out of the house,” Paislee says. (If you use a quote for the second sentence, make sure it’s past tense. Use “said” instead of “says”.)

Lesson/Activity #4

COMMON PITFALLS

WRONG: Paislee said it was the first snow day of the year, and she wanted to get out of the house. (Use quotation marks with a direct quote. In print journalism, use the name and “said” at the end of the sentence--not the beginning. “It was the first snow day of the year, and I wanted to get out of the house,” Paislee said.)

WRONG: Sledding down the hill, Paislee Johnson (10th) sleds with her friend, Joanna Riaz. (don't use “sledding” and “sleds”--it's repetitive. Change the sentence beginning to “With her friend Joanna Riaz,”)



Additional Resources

[Captivating Captions](#)

[Caption Writing](#)