



Selective Writing Guide

HOW TO WRITE A FEATURE ARTICLE



1. INTRODUCTION TO FEATURE ARTICLES

A feature article is a creative, sometimes subjective article, written to entertain and inform readers about a topic. Unlike hard news stories, feature articles allow writers to express their voice and often include vivid descriptions, quotes, and human interest elements. As a Year 6 student preparing for selective tests, understanding how to write engaging feature articles will enhance your writing skills and creativity.

Feature articles can be found in newspapers, magazines, and online publications. They often cover topics like profiles of interesting people, explorations of social issues, or in-depth looks at current trends.

Types of Feature Articles:

- Profile pieces: Focus on a person of interest
- Trend stories: Explore current social, cultural, or economic trends
- How-to articles: Provide step-by-step instructions or advice
- Behind-the-scenes features: Offer an insider's look at an event, place, or process
- Historical features: Examine past events and their relevance to the present
- Issue-based articles: Explore complex social, political, or environmental topics

2. STRUCTURE OF A FEATURE ARTICLE

While feature articles allow for more flexibility than news reports, they typically include the following elements:

a) **Headline:**

An attention-grabbing title that summarises the main idea of the article.

Examples:

1. "The Plastic Plague: Our Oceans in Crisis"
2. "From Trash to Treasure: The Art of Upcycling"
3. "Silent Skies: The Vanishing World of Migratory Birds"
4. "Digital Detox: Rediscovering Life Unplugged"
5. "The Green Revolution: Urban Farming Takes Root"

b) **By-line:**

The author's name.

Examples:

1. By Jane Smith
2. Written by John Doe
3. Reported by Sarah Johnson
4. A Special Report by Michael Brown
5. Investigation by Emma Davis



2. STRUCTURE OF A FEATURE ARTICLE

c) Lead (or Introduction):

A compelling opening that hooks the reader and introduces the topic.

Examples:

1. "As the sun dips below the horizon, casting a fiery glow across the savanna, a lone figure emerges from the shadows. This is no ordinary evening stroll – it's the beginning of Dr. Maya Patel's nightly vigil, tracking the elusive and endangered African wild dog."
2. "Imagine a world where your morning coffee comes with a side of virtual reality news, your commute is handled by a self-driving hover-car, and your workday involves collaborating with AI colleagues. Welcome to 2050 – or at least, one possible version of it."
3. "The deafening roar of engines cuts through the air as 20 finely-tuned machines hurtle around the track at breath-taking speeds. This is Formula 1 racing – a sport where milliseconds can mean the difference between victory and defeat, and where technology and human skill collide in a high-octane spectacle."
4. "In a dimly lit basement laboratory, Dr. Samantha Lee carefully pipettes a clear liquid into a vial. This isn't just any solution – it's potentially the key to unlocking a cure for one of humanity's most persistent viral foes."
5. "The gentle clinking of dishes and the aroma of spices fill the air as Chef Marco Rossi moves with practiced ease through his bustling kitchen. Tonight, he's not just preparing a meal – he's crafting an experience that will transport diners across continents and through time."

2. STRUCTURE OF A FEATURE ARTICLE

d) Nut Graf:

A paragraph that clearly states the focus of the article and why it's important.

Examples:

1. "This article explores the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence and its potential impacts on the job market. As AI technologies advance, understanding these changes is crucial for workers, employers, and policymakers alike."
2. "In this feature, we delve into the world of urban beekeeping, a growing trend that's not just producing local honey, but also playing a vital role in maintaining biodiversity in our cities."
3. "This piece examines the rise of e-sports and its journey from niche hobby to multi-billion dollar industry. As virtual athletics gain mainstream recognition, they're reshaping our understanding of sports, entertainment, and competition."
4. "Our investigation uncovers the hidden world of fast fashion, tracing the journey of a single t-shirt from cotton field to landfill. This story reveals the true cost of our clothing choices on both people and the planet."
5. "In this article, we explore the phenomenon of 'forest bathing,' a Japanese practice gaining global popularity. As stress levels rise worldwide, this simple act of immersing oneself in nature could offer a much-needed antidote to our fast-paced, digital lives."

2. STRUCTURE OF A FEATURE ARTICLE

e) Body:

The main content of the article, which may include:

- Background information
- Descriptions
- Quotes from interviews
- Anecdotes
- Facts and statistics



f) Sidebars:

Optional additional information boxes that complement the main article.

Examples:

1. "Fast Facts: Climate Change by the Numbers"
2. "Timeline: The Evolution of Social Media"
3. "Glossary of Key Terms in Genetic Engineering"
4. "Profile: 5 Pioneering Women in STEM"
5. "Infographic: The Global Coffee Supply Chain"

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g) Conclusion:

A wrap-up that leaves a lasting impression or calls the reader to action.

Examples:

1. "As we stand at the crossroads of technological advancement and environmental preservation, the choices we make today will shape the world our children inherit. The time for action is now."
2. "While the challenge of food insecurity looms large, these community initiatives prove that grassroots efforts can make a significant difference. By supporting local food banks, urban gardens, and policy changes, we can all play a part in ensuring no one goes to bed hungry."
3. "The story of the Himalayan snow leopard is far from over. With continued conservation efforts and increased awareness, there's hope that these magnificent creatures will roam the mountain ranges for generations to come."
4. "As we've seen, the world of quantum computing is as mind-bending as it is promising. While the full potential of this technology remains to be seen, one thing is clear: we're on the brink of a computational revolution that could reshape our understanding of the universe itself."
5. "The journey to Mars is more than just a scientific endeavour – it's a testament to human curiosity, innovation, and determination. As we look to the red planet, we're not just exploring new worlds, but also pushing the boundaries of what we thought possible."

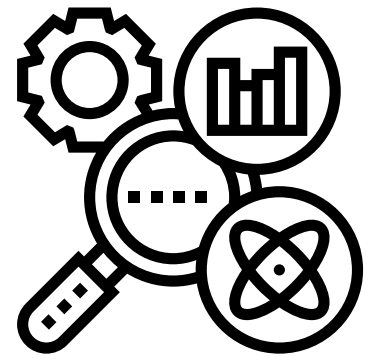
3. STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO WRITING A FEATURE ARTICLE

Step 1: Choose your topic

- Select a subject that interests you and will engage readers
- Ensure the topic is appropriate for your audience

Step 2: Research thoroughly

- Gather information from reliable sources
- Conduct interviews if possible
- Take detailed notes



Step 3: Plan your article

- Organise your information
- Decide on a unique angle or perspective
- Create an outline

Step 4: Craft a compelling lead

- Write an opening that grabs attention
- Consider using an anecdote, question, or vivid description

Step 5: Write the nut graf

- Clearly state the focus of your article
- Explain why the topic is significant



3. STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO CREATING AN ADVERTISEMENT

Step 6: Develop the body

- Use vivid language and specific details
- Include quotes and anecdotes
- Maintain a logical flow of ideas

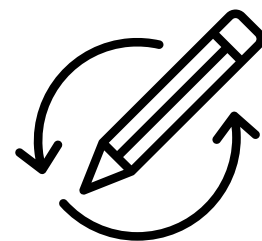


Step 7: Conclude effectively

- Summarise key points
- Leave readers with something to think about

Step 8: Review and revise

- Check for clarity and coherence
- Ensure your article maintains reader interest throughout



Step 9: Edit and proofread

- Correct any grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors
- Refine your language for maximum impact

Step 10: Add finishing touches

- Create an engaging headline
- Consider adding subheadings or sidebars

4. VOCABULARY FOR ADVERTISEMENT WRITING

1. Descriptive adjectives:

- Compelling
- Unprecedented
- Intricate
- Profound
- Nuanced

2. Transition phrases:

- Moreover
- Nevertheless
- Consequently
- In contrast
- Notably

3. Analytical verbs:

- Reveals
- Demonstrates
- Illustrates
- Underscores
- Exemplifies

4. Quotation introducers:

- Asserts
- Contends
- Emphasizes
- Reflects
- Articulates

5. Scene-setting words:

- Amid
- Nestled
- Bustling
- Serene
- Vibrant

6. Human interest terms:

- Resilience
- Transformation
- Struggle
- Triumph
- Perseverance

7. Contextual phrases:

- In the wake of
- Against the backdrop of
- In light of
- Amidst ongoing
- In the context of

8. Evidence-based language:

- According to
- Studies indicate
- Data suggests
- Experts concur
- Research shows

5. EXAMPLE SENTENCES

1. "The old lighthouse stood sentinel over the churning sea, its weathered facade telling tales of centuries gone by."



2. "Twelve-year-old Mia's eyes sparkled with determination as she explained her plan to clean up the local park."

3. "'I never thought I'd be a hero,' Tom chuckled, recounting the day he saved his neighbour's cat from a tree."



4. "The aroma of freshly baked bread wafted through the air, a testament to the bakery's century-old traditions."

5. "From the bustling streets of Tokyo to the serene temples of Kyoto, Japan is a land of captivating contrasts."



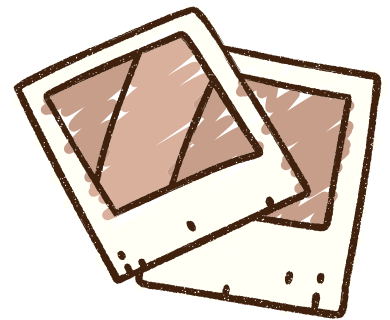
5. EXAMPLE SENTENCES

6. "As the last notes of the symphony faded, a hush fell over the audience, followed by thunderous applause."



7. "Amidst the chaos of the school fair, Ms. Thompson's calm demeanour was a beacon of order and efficiency."

8. "The old photograph, faded and creased, held secrets of a time long past, waiting to be uncovered."



9. "With each brushstroke, the blank canvas transformed into a vibrant landscape, alive with colour and emotion."



10. "The community garden wasn't just about growing vegetables; it was cultivating friendships and nurturing the neighbourhood's spirit."

6. FULL EXEMPLAR FEATURE ARTICLE

Headline: The Secret Life of Bees: Nature's Tiny Superheroes

By [Your Name]

On a warm spring morning, the air hums with a gentle buzz. To the untrained ear, it might sound like mere background noise. But to Erica Chen, 11-year-old beekeeper extraordinaire, it's the sound of magic happening.

"Bees are like tiny superheroes," Erica explains, her eyes shining with enthusiasm as she carefully lifts a frame from one of her hives. "They're small, but they have superpowers that keep our whole planet healthy."

In a world where bees are facing numerous threats, from pesticides to habitat loss, Erica's passion is more than just a hobby – it's a mission. This remarkable Year 6 student from Sunnyville Primary School has taken it upon herself to educate her community about the importance of these industrious insects.

Erica's journey into beekeeping began two years ago when her class visited a local farm. "I saw the beekeeper working with the hives, and I was fascinated," she recalls. "I begged my parents to let me try it, and eventually, they agreed."

With the help of a mentor from the local beekeepers' association, Erica set up her first hive in her family's backyard. Now, she manages three hives, each home to thousands of bees.

But Erica's work doesn't stop at tending to her own bees. She's become something of a local celebrity, giving talks at schools and community events about the importance of bees in our ecosystem.

"Did you know that bees pollinate about one-third of the food we eat?" Erica asks, launching into one of her favourite topics. "Without them, we'd lose so many fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Even the cotton for our clothes depends on bees!"

6. FULL EXEMPLAR FEATURE ARTICLE

Erica's enthusiasm is infectious. Her school principal, Mrs. Janice Wong, shares, "Erica has inspired our whole school to become more bee-aware. We've planted a pollinator garden and stopped using pesticides on our grounds."

But it's not all smooth sailing in the world of beekeeping. Erica faces challenges, from the occasional sting ("It hurts, but it's part of the job," she says bravely) to the more serious issue of colony collapse disorder, a phenomenon where entire bee colonies mysteriously disappear.

"It's scary to think about," Erica admits. "But that's why it's so important to teach people about bees. The more we understand them, the better we can protect them."

As our interview winds down, Erica offers a taste of her latest honey harvest. The golden liquid is sweet and complex, with hints of the lavender and sage growing in her family's garden.

"Every jar of honey is a little bit different," Erica explains. "It's like a snapshot of what's blooming when the bees made it."

As the sun begins to set, casting a warm glow over the hives, Erica takes one last look at her buzzing charges before heading inside. "Bees teach us so much," she says thoughtfully. "They show us how to work together, how to be patient, and how every little bit helps when it comes to taking care of our planet."

In a world often filled with gloomy environmental news, Erica Chen and her bees offer a ray of hope. They remind us that sometimes, the biggest changes start with the smallest creatures – and the passionate young people who care for them.

6. FULL EXEMPLAR FEATURE ARTICLE

Headline: The Silent Revolution: How Vertical Farming is Changing Agriculture

By [Your Name]

In the heart of Newark, New Jersey, an unlikely agricultural revolution is taking root. Here, in a former steel factory, rows upon rows of leafy greens and herbs grow under the purple glow of LED lights. This is AeroFarms, one of the world's largest vertical farms, and it might just represent the future of agriculture.

"We're not just growing plants," says David Rosenberg, co-founder and CEO of AeroFarms. "We're rewriting the rules of agriculture."

In a world grappling with climate change, population growth, and dwindling resources, vertical farming offers a glimpse of hope. This innovative approach to agriculture promises to produce more food with less land, less water, and fewer pesticides than traditional farming methods.

The concept is deceptively simple: instead of growing crops horizontally in fields, vertical farms stack them in layers, often in urban environments. Using hydroponics or aeroponics, these farms can grow plants without soil, instead nourishing them with nutrient-rich mists.

At AeroFarms, this translates to a staggering 390 times more productivity per square foot than a conventional field farm. But the benefits go beyond just efficiency.

"We use 95% less water than field farming," Rosenberg explains, gesturing to the mist-shrouded plants. "And because we're indoors, we don't need pesticides. Plus, we can grow year-round, regardless of weather conditions."

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The environmental implications are significant. Traditional agriculture is a major contributor to deforestation, water pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. Vertical farming, by contrast, has a much smaller environmental footprint.

But it's not just large-scale operations like AeroFarms that are driving this revolution. Across the globe, from Singapore to Scotland, vertical farms are springing up in a variety of forms.

In London, Growing Underground has transformed abandoned World War II air raid shelters into subterranean farms, growing microgreens and salad leaves 33 meters below the streets of Clapham.

"We're proving that urban agriculture can be a reality," says Richard Ballard, co-founder of Growing Underground. "We're bringing food production back to the heart of the city, reducing food miles and creating local jobs."

The potential of vertical farming extends beyond leafy greens. Researchers are working on ways to grow a wider variety of crops, including fruits and even grains, in vertical systems.

At the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands, often referred to as "the Silicon Valley of food," scientists are pushing the boundaries of what's possible in vertical farming.

"We're looking at ways to grow staple crops like rice and wheat vertically," says Dr. Leo Marcelis, Professor of Horticulture. "If we can crack this, it could be a game-changer for global food security."

However, vertical farming is not without its challenges. The high energy costs associated with artificial lighting and climate control are a significant hurdle. Critics argue that until vertical farms can run on renewable energy, their environmental benefits are limited.

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There's also the question of cost. Currently, produce from vertical farms tends to be more expensive than conventionally grown alternatives. "We're working hard to bring costs down," Rosenberg acknowledges. "As technology improves and we scale up, we expect prices to become more competitive."

Despite these challenges, many see vertical farming as an essential part of our agricultural future. As climate change makes traditional farming more unpredictable and urban populations continue to grow, the ability to produce food efficiently in cities could become increasingly vital.

"Vertical farming isn't going to replace traditional agriculture entirely," says Dr. Dickson Despommier, emeritus professor of Public and Environmental Health at Columbia University and a pioneer in the field of vertical farming. "But it's going to be an increasingly important complement to it."

As the sun sets over Newark, the lights in AeroFarms continue to glow. Here, in this unlikely urban setting, a vision of the future of farming is taking shape. It's a future where agriculture moves skyward, where cities become centres of food production, and where technology and nature combine to feed a growing world.

The vertical farming revolution may be silent, but its impact could resound for generations to come.

7. TASKS, EXERCISES, AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Headline Crafting Workshop:**

Explore topics such as 'Local Heroes', 'Environmental Initiatives', and 'Technology in Education'. For each topic, brainstorm five engaging headlines that would draw readers into a feature article.

2. **Lead Paragraph Development:**

Choose from topics like 'Community Arts Programs', 'The Future of Renewable Energy', or 'Sports and Mental Health'. Write a compelling lead paragraph for a feature article on the selected topic, aiming to captivate the reader's attention immediately.

3. **Peer Interview Article:**

Pair up and interview each other about hobbies such as photography, baking, or coding. Based on the interview, write a feature article that showcases your partner's interest and its impact on their life.

4. **Sensory Walk and Write:**

During a walk around a local park or school grounds, focus on topics such as 'The Changing Seasons', 'Urban Wildlife', or 'School Spirit in Common Spaces'. Write a segment rich in sensory details for a feature article related to your observations.

5. **Anecdotal Insight Exercise:**

Create anecdotes related to themes like courage in everyday life, the power of friendship, or overcoming challenges. Write short, illustrative anecdotes that highlight these themes, suitable for inclusion in a broader feature article.

7. TASKS, EXERCISES, AND ACTIVITIES

6. Nut Graf Challenge:

Receive lead paragraphs on topics such as 'Innovations in Local Farming', 'Youth-Led Community Projects', or 'The Rise of Telemedicine'. Your task is to craft a nut graf for each, defining the core of the articles.

7. Quote Integration Practice:

Use a set of quotes from community leaders, experts, or residents on topics like 'City Planning for Better Living', 'Education Reform', or 'Local Music Scenes'. Integrate these quotes into well-crafted paragraphs that enhance your articles.

8. Story Arc Mapping:

Map out the structure of a feature article on topics like 'The Impact of Local Theatres', 'Conservation Efforts in Our Town', or 'Schools Adapting to Digital Learning'. Outline how the story develops from the introduction to the conclusion.

9. Peer Feedback Session:

Swap draft articles with a peer on any of the topics you've worked on. Use a feedback checklist to assess each other's use of engaging hooks, clear structure, and effective storytelling in the feature articles.

10. Mini Feature Article Project:

Write a mini feature article about a topic such as 'A Day in the Life of a Local Firefighter', 'Behind the Scenes at a Community Garden', or 'The Role of Libraries in Modern Communities'. Follow the journalistic process from initial research and interviews to writing the final draft.