

Words and Writing

Mod 7, Part 14

Caption Writing-Three Possible Exercises

Student's Name: _____

Writing captions is very important to your yearbook. Captions are the most read copy in a yearbook because they provide immediate information about what is happening in the photographs. In fact, they should be filled with facts and details that the reader wouldn't otherwise know

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Use complete sentences
- Use first and last names
- Use direct quotes.
- Use specific facts.
- Include the five Ws and H
- Use a variety of adjectives and adverbs
- Be descriptive
- Use plain language.
 - Say "he said" instead of "he stated."
- Write positive captions.
- Proofread and correct all spelling and grammar errors.
- Be factual
- Use a variety of sentence patterns
- Have a copy read around to get input from others in your class. You can do this virtually.
- Never use these words in your yearbook:
 - Numerous, many, several, few, some
- Learn the difference between "its" and "it's."
 - Its is possessive. "The dog wagged its tail."
 - It's is the contraction for it is. "It's going to be a great day."

Assignment:

Do at least one of the following three activities. Ask your adviser for additional direction!

1. Take a newspaper section, magazine or go to an online news site. Find three photos with captions. If you prefer, use the three photos provided to help you. Write down the captions and respond to the two questions.



A supercell thunderstorm rolls across the Montana prairie at sunset. (Photo and caption by Sean Heavey)

Caption 1:

Caption written of the storm:

Critique the caption. How could the caption be improved? Is anything missing from the caption?

Rewrite the captions with the information provided in the current caption and add additional information. Remember to keep them factual.



PORTLAND, OREGON — November 17, 2011 — A police officer deployed pepper spray at SW Yamhill, between the JP Morgan Chase bank and Pioneer Courthouse Square. The photo was taken from the southeast corner of the square, looking toward the intersection of 6th and Yamhill after a day of marching through downtown Portland, Ore., by Occupy Portland participants. People gathered on the east side of the Steel bridge earlier in the morning to demonstrate in support of the Occupy movement, on the day known as N17. Several people were arrested and the march continued over the lower span of the bridge into downtown, where a rally was planned. Later in the day people were arrested in a Wells Fargo branch downtown. Photo by Randy L. Rasmussen/The Oregonian

Caption 2:

Caption written of the march:

Critique the caption. How could the caption be improved? Is anything missing from the caption?

Rewrite the captions with the information provided in the current caption and add additional information. Remember to keep them factual.



Washington's Dante Pettis, left, eluding Utah's Jackson Barton on a decisive 58-yard punt return touchdown. By winning the game between top-25 teams, the Huskies improved to 8-0 over all.
Rick Bowmer/Associated Press

Caption 3:

Caption written of the football play:

Critique the caption. How could the caption be improved? Is anything missing from the caption?

Rewrite the captions with the information provided in the current caption and add additional information. Remember to keep them factual.

2. Here are two photos with background information provided so you can write the captions needed. Remember your ABCDs. Write your captions on the lines provided. Then use the checklist to grade your caption.

CAPTION 1 – MUSICAL CHAIRS

- Juniors Jessica Peterson (left) and Mary Lopez (right)
- Participate in blindfolded musical chairs at the first pep rally of the year
- It was 97 degrees outside, and two people suffered from heat exhaustion
- This was a competition between the classes
- Occurred on Sept. 6
- “I couldn’t see so I sat really quickly on someone and when I looked, it was Mary [my best friend], so it was the perfect person to sit on. It just stunk I was still out,” Peterson said.
- “The music ended so quickly. I just sat as quickly as I could. I thought it was so funny that Jessica ended up on my lap,” Lopez said.
- The seniors won this event.



CAPTION 2 – ACTOR

- Junior Clark Thornton plays a townsman who has an ailing back.
- This was the drama department’s production of Anatomy of Gray.
- The production ran Oct. 4, 5 and 6 at 7 p.m. in the school’s auditorium (unnamed).
- Debra Christopher, a former student, directed the play.
- This program earned the troop four Critic’s Choice



Caption Checklist

Now that you have written a few captions, swap with a peer or use the following for evaluation. Evaluate and critique each other's caption writing. See how much you remembered.

CAPTION 1 – MUSICAL CHAIRS (10 Points Each)

- _____ Makes a creative caption/photo connection (Attention getter)
- _____ Present tense sentence identifies who (everyone in photo) and describes what is happening in each photo. (Basic info)
- _____ Past tense sentence takes reader beyond moment of photos. (Complimentary info)
- _____ Quotes are interesting and not just facts. (Direct quote)
- _____ Caption is factual.
- _____ Avoids editorializing, school name, and terms like: this year, apparently, seemingly
- _____ Written in third person (no you, us, we, our)
- _____ In active, not passive voice verb.
- _____ Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are correct.
- _____ Does not begin with name or -ing

CAPTION 2 – ACTOR (10 Points Each)

- _____ Makes a creative caption/photo connection (Attention getter)
- _____ Present tense sentence identifies who (everyone in photo) and describes what is happening in each photo. (Basic info)
- _____ Past tense sentence takes reader beyond moment of photos. (Complimentary info)
- _____ Quotes are interesting and not just facts. (Direct quote)
- _____ Caption is factual.
- _____ Avoids editorializing, school name, and terms like: this year, apparently, seemingly
- _____ Written in third person (no you, us, we, our)
- _____ In active, not passive voice verb.
- _____ Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are correct.
- _____ Does not begin with name or -ing

3. Choose three photos that you have taken or planning to use on a spread in your yearbook. The photos should correspond to the page/feature you will be working on your next deadline. Answer all the questions below about your photos and then write your captions. Be sure to include your photos into this file.

Photo #1:

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

How:

Why:

Quote 1:

Quote 2:

Quote 3:

Caption:

Photo #2:

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

How:

Why:

Quote 1:

Quote 2:

Quote 3:

Caption:

Photo #3:

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

How:

Why:

Quote 1:

Quote 2:

Quote 3:

Caption:
