

**Book report BBC News broadcast  
(taaltaak SET Taal en communicatie 3de graad aso MT)**

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**STEP 1**

- ✓ Choose a novel from the list on Smartschool (pair work).
- ✓ Read the book. Note down the pages on which important events take place.

**STEP 2**

- ✓ Speaking assignment (pair work) : make a BBC news broadcast. You will act as a news team and you are going to produce a 10-minute news broadcast. Bring variation to your news broadcast by including interviews with a correspondent, inviting a guest to the studio to explain things .... Try to bring a lively program that isn't boring!
- ✓ Check the internet for an interesting format. (Youtube, bbc.com) and use a typical tune to start and end your broadcast.
- ✓ A written version of your presentation contains the following references: head of the school (cfr.above) , title of your novel and author. You hand in the written version after you have presented her news broadcast.
- ✓ Your broadcast contains the following 6 news items.

**1. Important events**

The first 3 items are built up around 3 different events that place in the story you have read. Answer the following questions: Who? What? Where? When? How? Why?

**Writing assessment (individual task) :**

Each of you chooses one of those 3 events to write an article about for a quality newspaper. (e.g. The Independent)  
(Arial 11, one page with head of the school on top.  
Use the logo of The Independent and write in columns.) Instructions p. 3-4 of this document.

**2. Missing person report:**

Report one of the characters in your book as a missing person. Interesting questions to be answered: Physical description? What was he/she wearing when last seen? How was his/her emotional sense? What could his/her possible destination be? Where was he/she last seen? What was he/she doing? Who/Where should witnesses report to?

**3. Prize winning author:**

The author of your book has won an important prize. Scan the internet for an important Anglo-Saxon book award.  
What is the name of the prize? What does it mean? Who is the author? Give some general information and say something about his/her work.

**4. The weather:**

Present the weather forecast from the country in which the book is set.

- ✓ Length? 10 min (pair work)
- ✓ At least one of the first three items contains an interview or a reporter on the field.
- ✓ Item 5 contains a reaction of the prize winner.

- ✓ Be creative and original!

### STEP 3

- ✓ You can make use of a PPT, but you can't use footage.  
If necessary, ask a fellow student to help you with the PPT during the broadcast.
- ✓ Talk slowly and clearly. Mind your language (check BBC-news):  
use passive structures, accurate vocabulary, neutral verbs (non-emotive verbs), few pronouns and articles ....

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/studyguides/pdfs/langmedia.pdf>

Some examples of structures used in reporting news are :

<p>It is widely believed that .... It has been alleged/claimed that ... She is considered/reputed to be (doing) ... They have threatened to ... He is understood /thought/ believed/ known to have done ... The government recommended/ suggested that he (do/should do) ... The government has been accused of (doing)...</p>	<p>Our correspondent in ... has more details ... Now over to our correspondent in ... People have been encouraged/urged to ... He admitted to/denied (doing/having done) ... Early reports suggest that ...</p>
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- ✓ Try to be a professional news anchor.
- ✓ Don't read your text. You can use a card with some keywords, but no script.

### EVALUATION

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Speaking fluency /10

Content /15 (news item 1->4 /3, item 5 /2, item 6 /1)

Presentation /5 (nice and lively – boring)

## **WRITING YOUR OWN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (cfr. The Independent)**

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**Remember : a typical newspaper article contains six parts. -Don't forget to use paragraphs! You can insert a photograph if you like.**

### **STEP 1 The most important part of writing an article is the HEADLINE.**

People don't want to be tricked into reading something boring; they want to be drawn into something exciting. Make it worth their while. Take extra long time to consider what headline will grab people's attention the most, and make sure it describes your content in an honest, but attractive, way.

- a) Use numbers
- b) Use interesting adjectives : *effortless, free, incredible, essential, absolute, strange*
- c) Use *what, why, how, or when* These are trigger words. A journalist uses "why" and "how" the most, because he's often trying to persuade or enable someone.
- d) Make an audacious promise, promise your reader something valuable.

Here's a simple headline-writing formula:

<b>Number or Trigger word + Adjective + Keyword + Promise</b>
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e.g.

**Take the subject "bathing elephants.**

"How to Bathe an Elephant" or "Why I Love Bathing Elephants."

Or you could apply this formula and make it:

*"18 Unbelievable Ways You Can Bathe an Elephant Indoors"*

**Another (more serious) example:** Take a promise like "selling your house in a day"

Apply the formula and you get:

*"How You Can Effortlessly Sell Your Home in Less than 24 Hours"*

**STEP 2 Byline:** This tells who wrote the story.

**STEP 3 The lead / lead paragraph**

This has ALL the who, what, when, where, why and how in it. A writer must find the answers to these questions and write them into the opening sentence(s) (=lead) of the article, that states the topic of your article.

#### STEP 4 Explanation

After the lead paragraph has been written, the writer must decide what other facts or details the reader might want to know. The writer must make sure that he/she has enough information to answer any important questions a reader might have after reading the headline and the lead paragraph. This section can also include direct quotes from witnesses or interviewees.

#### STEP 5 Additional Information

This information is the least important. Thus, if the news article is too long for the space it needs to fill, it can be shortened without rewriting any other part. This part can include information about a similar event.

#### STEP 6 Conclude your article

Make sure your news article is complete and finished by giving it a good concluding sentence. This is often a restatement of the leading statement or a statement indicating potential future developments relating to the article topic.

#### SAMPLE NEWS ARTICLE

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#### FAKE VAN GOGH SELLS FOR \$35 MILLION

***A fake painting supposedly by Vincent Van Gogh has been sold for \$35 million in Paris.***

#### By John Lewis

Imagine this: It's the chance of a lifetime. You have the necessary cash and you have the opportunity to buy a Van Gogh. After purchasing the painting and placing it on your living room wall to show to all your friends, you discover that the painting is a forgery!

That's what happened to an anonymous telephone bidder who purchased *Sunflowers in the Wind* at the Peinture Company in Paris, France. The first (supposed) Van Gogh painting to have been auctioned since last year's record sale of \$40

million, the forgery was sold for \$35 million. The painting had also been reported to be the last ever offered for sale, Britain's Daily Times reported Thursday.

Unfortunately, shortly after the masterpiece had been transferred to the buyer's home, the Academy of Fine Arts released a statement saying that *Sunflowers in the Wind* was a fake. Upon further investigation, the report proved to be true. The unlucky buyer was forced to recognize that he or she had indeed purchased a forgery.

#### EVALUATION

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Language	/15	(grammar/vocabulary/spelling)
Content	/10	
Structure - lay-out	/5	

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