

# Writing a Current-Events Article

Consider using with *Voyages in English 2011*  
Grade 4–Chapter 7 Writer’s Workshop  
Grade 5–Chapter 7 Writer’s Workshop



## Teach

Explain to students that a current-events article is a piece that discusses events and issues currently in the news. A current-events article contains the following elements:

- A main topic
- An explanation of who, what, when, where, and why
- Formal language
- Details about how the event occurred and why the reader should care about it (optional)
- Illustrations, photographs, charts, or maps to emphasize points (optional)

## Practice

Display and discuss the various types of current-events writing, such as newspaper articles, blog postings, Internet articles, editorial articles, and commentaries. Invite students to share their experiences with each. Point out how each type contains the elements of a current-events article and that some types, such as blogs and editorials, also include the author’s opinions, supported by facts and examples. Explain that editorial articles, letters to the editor, and political cartoons address topics that are of current interest and can be a starting point for further investigation, but help students distinguish between facts and opinions in these sources. Point out the importance of supporting visuals, such as photographs, illustrations, maps, graphs, and charts.

## Apply

Have students write a one-page current-events article about a topic that would be of interest to their peers. Provide students with newspapers and Internet news sources from which to choose a topic for investigation. Discuss resources they may use to conduct research. Explain that interviewing people in the community, including friends and family connected to the issue, may also be useful sources of information. Remind students that any generalizations they make from their source material should be supported by related facts. Encourage students to include at least one visual aid to support the information in their article.

## Assess

Have students determine the form by which they will publish their current-events article. Encourage students to post completed articles on a classroom blog or Web page. Use the rubric on the following page to evaluate students on their understanding of a current-events article.

*Listening and Speaking Connection:* Have students work in small groups to create a rubric they can use to evaluate a Web page or blog for its current-event content. Suggest they begin with the writing rubric and tailor it for an Internet application, which may include additional graphic elements, links, and visual aids. Have students select a particular Web site and use their rubrics to evaluate the content. Then invite students to present their evaluations to the class.

# Current-Events Article

POINTS

<b>Ideas</b>	
A clear focus on one topic	
Factual information supported by research or personal experience	
Topic is of current interest and audience appropriate	
<b>Organization</b>	
Introduction tells who, what, where, when, and why	
Body provides more detailed information about the topic	
Conclusion summarizes and includes additional related resources or links	
<b>Voice</b>	
Appropriate for an informative news article	
Uses formal language	
<b>Word Choice</b>	
Uses synonyms and interesting word choices appropriate to the topic	
Uses language specific to the topic	
<b>Sentence Fluency</b>	
Clear, concise sentences	
Logical transitions throughout	
<b>Conventions</b>	
Correct grammar, usage, and spelling	
Correct punctuation and capitalization	
<b>Presentation</b>	
Text elements are organized and easy to read	
Consistent margins and spacing	
Visual features appropriate for purpose	
Neatness	