

Strategy

How to Use the 5Ws and H

The 5Ws and H can help you plan and write an article. First, answer these questions.

Who was involved?

What happened?

When did it happen?

Where did it happen?

Why did it happen?

and

How did it happen?

Second, make sure the answers to those questions are in your article.

4. Create a Headline

A short, snappy headline catches the reader's attention. It should sum up the main idea of the article.

Canucks on Thin Ice

K9 hero saves the day

Stones still rolling

Sample Newspaper Article

Australia's Crabby Ants

← (headline)

On Wednesday, April 10, 2002, officials in Australia announced that half of the crab population on Australia's Christmas Island may have been destroyed over the past few years. How? Because the ferocious ants that reside on the island are eating all the crabs. Christmas Island's crabs are famous because every year millions of them swim far into the ocean to spawn. Afterwards, they come back to the island.

← (lead)

The ants on the island, which are killing the crabs, are known as "Crazy Ants." They have very long legs and hearty appetites. About five years ago these ants started growing in numbers, reproducing very quickly. They now have big colonies in about 25% of Christmas Island's rain forest.

It may seem hard to believe that some little ants can kill so many crabs in a few years. But these ants actually spit acid! They use the acid to blind the crabs. Then, while the crabs are confused, the ants quickly devour them.

Nobody knows how many crabs were originally on Christmas Island, but now there are about 40 million. There may have been as many as 80 million crabs at one time. Environmental specialists are worried that the ants will eat all of the crabs.

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