Holocaust Newspaper Assignment

Your task: Create a Holocaust remembrance newspaper that teaches readers about important aspects of the Holocaust story.

You will include information on the following topics:

- **Anti-Jewish Laws/Anti Semitism**
- **Kristallnacht**
- **Concentration Camps/Auschwitz**
- **Free topic choice (you may choose)**

For each topic you will create an article that provides information for your readers. First you will need to provide context. Context is the definition or background information that allows the reader to understand what happened in the Holocaust surrounding the topic. Then as any good journalist would do, provide facts and witness testimony for the reader. You will get this primary source information from the testimonies from iWitness. Write it up in a mini-article on the topic in the newspaper template.

Helpful Hints:

- Don't assume your reader knows anything about the topic
- Make sure you list the name of the survivor who you are quoting
- Be factually accurate!
- Quote the survivor testimony appropriately
- Double check your grammar and spelling!

How to Write a Newspaper Article
© Mia Carter, Jul 30, 2008

There's a particular formula that should be utilized when writing a newspaper article, feature story or press release, thereby making for an interesting and easy read.

Components of a Newspaper Article
There's a specific formula that newspaper journalists should follow when authoring a news story, and when done correctly, the writer can effectively educate and entertain readers from all walks of life. The "lead" of a news story, typically the first paragraph, should provide a clear and concise overview of the main point(s) (who, what, when, where, how and why), thereby conveying to the reader what he/or she will be learning about in the piece.

The content of a news story should be unbiased, and completely fact-based. Sources of the information should be clearly cited and integrated into the piece. Sentences should be clear, concise and worded in a manner that is appropriate for the audience.

Another important concept to keep in mind when writing a news story is the pyramid format. News reporters placed the most important facts at the beginning of the broadcast and additional information was mentioned in order of descending importance so that in the event that a listener's reception was interrupted, it was ensured that the most important information would be disseminated first.

"Quotes can be a wonderful tool for a news writer, when used appropriately," explained longtime journalist

Doug Wood-Boyle, who has worked in the field for over a quarter century. He added, "Quotations can clearly illustrate opposing opinions. They can also add a human feel to a story, while also providing the writer with an outlet to clearly illustrate a person's thoughts or opinion on an issue. They're also perfect when someone says something or illustrates a point more effectively than you, the reporter, can accomplish."

Writing for the Newspaper Audience
Writers should also provide background information when writing about the latest in a series of stories on a particular subject. Provide background information on past proceedings and clearly outline the evolution of the story. Writers should always assume that the reader has no prior knowledge of the event, organization, etc. This same rule can also be applied when covering an event or when writing a story about an organization.

"My rule of thumb is this: Assume that the reader has never read your publication. Reporters should then fill-in any gaps in the information," Wood-Boyle explained.

Once the author has completed the actual writing process, there are several additional steps that should be taken to ensure that the piece is ready for publication. Facts cited in the story should be verified in order to ensure accuracy. Spelling and grammatical errors can serve as a distraction to the reader, so accuracy is key and all errors should be corrected before a news story is submitted.