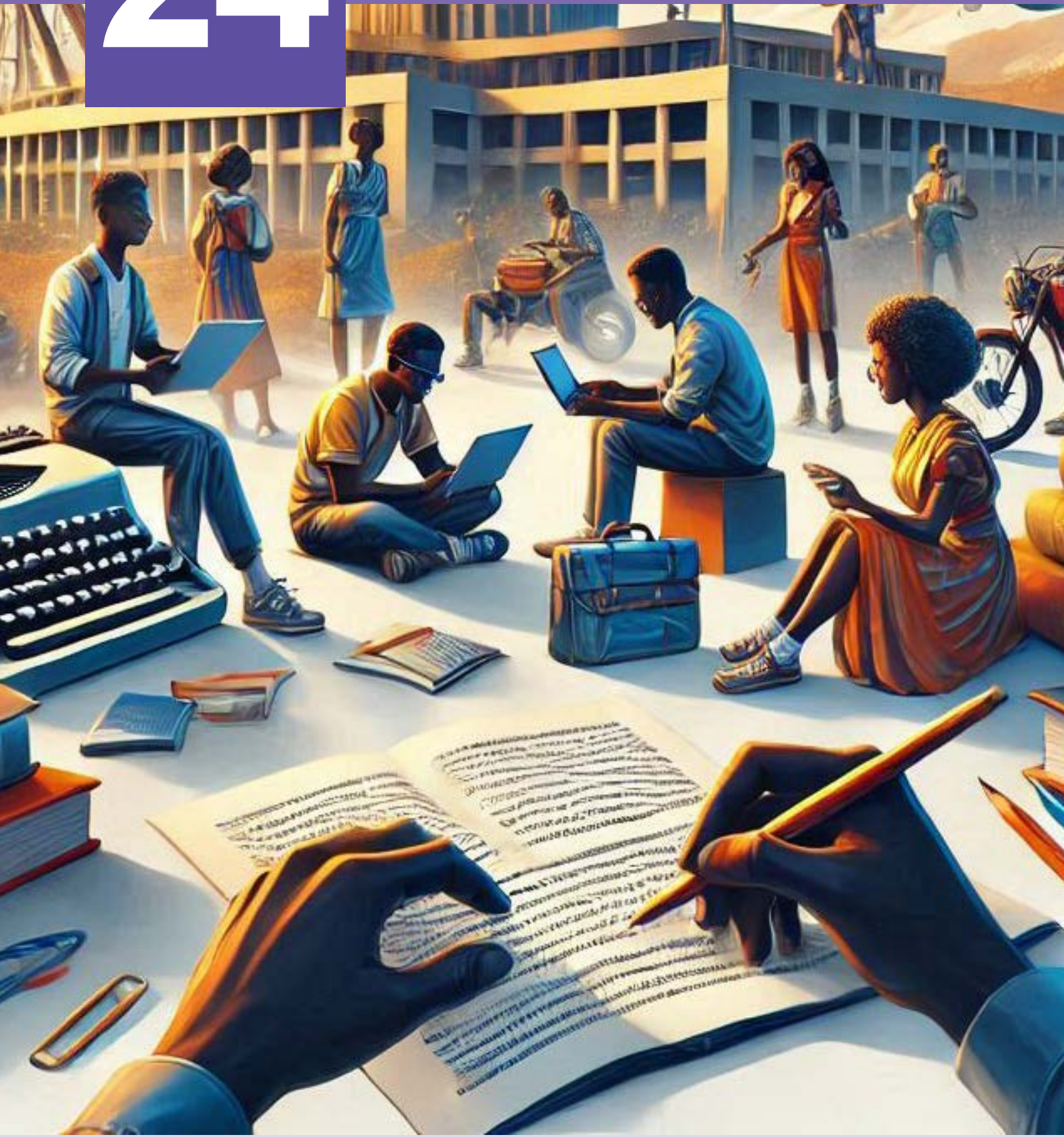


SECTION

24

ARTICLE WRITING



TEXT TYPES AND PURPOSES

INTRODUCTION

In our previous lesson on Text types and purposes, we learned how to compose various texts such as an email, memos, formal letters-application and acceptance letter. We learned that an email is a means or system for transmitting messages electronically. Again, we learned that a memo or memorandum is a kind of formal communication or notification that usually operates within an organisation. Memos are mostly used for the day-to-day running of an organisation. Features or how to write a memo was also learned. We said that memos differ from formal letters basically in its features, range of circulation and also level of formality. In addition to that, we learned or read about an Agenda. It was stated that an Agenda is a list or outline of things to be considered or done at a meeting. Today, we will focus on article writing, taking into consideration local/national newspapers, school/international magazines journals.

By the end of this section, you should be able to

- Write articles on given issues which could be used for publication in national newspapers and magazines.

Key Ideas

- *Article*: A piece of writing meant for publication.
- *Publication*: A publication is the process of producing and distributing written or printed material, such as books, articles, or reports, for the public to read. It can also refer to the actual work that is published.
- *Journal*: A journal is a collection of published articles or writings on a specific topic or field of study. It can also refer to a personal diary where someone records his or her thoughts or experiences.

ARTICLE WRITING

An article is a piece of writing meant for publication. Articles are published in local/national newspapers, school/international magazines journals. Articles are written to educate, inform, entertain, and more. They are mostly based on facts. Articles may be written to be published in school magazines, local newspapers or national newspapers.

Features of Article Writing

1. Title/ Heading: This is taken out of the question, boldly written and neatly underlined. For example, The Menace of Social Media.
2. Introduction: This gives an insight into the topic to be discussed in the article with factual evidence.
3. Main Body: This is a detailed discussion of the topic. Ideas must be orderly presented in paragraphs and well-linked with appropriate linking expressions. Relevant illustrations, short stories, that bring home the discussion and factual add-ups may be put here.
4. Conclusion: The conclusion should leave a lasting impression on the reader's mind about the topic being discussed.
5. Subscription: This is written in the bottom right corner at the end of the article. It is the writer's full name, address/designation.

For example:

Kyei-Baffour Jennifer,
Assembly Member,
Asokore Mampong.

Types of Article Writing

Article writing comes in four forms. These four forms of article writing are expository, descriptive, narrative and persuasive articles.

1. Expository Article Writing:

The first type is expository article writing. This type clearly explains a topic, concepts or ideas in a clear and precise manner. It is used to inform the public about the questions raised by providing them with information about it. The sole purpose of this type of article is to explain the complex part of the information in a simpler form. 'How To' guide articles or encyclopaedias, are examples of expository articles.

2. Descriptive Article Writing:

Descriptive article writing is used to explain and describe a particular topic, event, or information. This type of article writing needs the writer to explain it in detail. The purpose of the article should be to provide a clear and accurate picture of the event to the readers. Event descriptions, product reviews are examples of descriptive paragraphs.

3. Narrative Article Writing:

This type of article writing is the third one. This type is used to narrate an incident or event, topic, or information. In this article writing the style of writing words needs to be creative and engaging. The main purpose of this writing is to draw

attention to the article and website of the brand and provide an entertaining experience to the reader. Narrative writing examples include the biography of famous people, historical events, sometimes the recounting of fictional stories and more.

4. Persuasive Article Writing:

Persuasive article writing includes the writing style that is used to persuade the reader to side with or to object strongly to any topic, information, or event. Persuasive writing techniques demand the presentation of the article in a convincing manner. This type of work also includes evidence and facts along with the topic, in order to provide an argumentative pitch to readers.

Examples of persuasive articles are sales pitch, and call to action.

School Magazines

A school magazine is a publication created by students and faculty generally in combination, typically released on a periodic basis (monthly, quarterly, or annually) within a school. It entails a variety of content that reflects the activities, interests, and achievements of the school community.

Examples of content for a school magazine are:

Student Articles: Essays, opinion pieces, and creative writing. Some of the content of an article written for publication in a school magazine are as follow:

1. School News: Updates on events, achievements, and initiatives within the school.
2. Creative Works: Poems, short stories, drawings, and photographs by students.
3. Interviews: With staff, alumni, or notable figures.
4. Sports and Activities: Reports on sports events, clubs, and extracurricular activities.
5. Editorial Content: This is usually managed by an editorial team, which includes both students and teachers.

The school magazine also serves as a platform or avenue for students to express their creativity and share their experiences, while also documenting school life for the wider community. It can also serve as a historical record.

Journals

Journals are publications that contain articles, research findings, or essays focused on specific subjects or fields of study. Journals vary in type and purpose, but are often put into two main types:

1. Academic or Scholarly Journals: These are peer-reviewed publications that contain original research, review articles, case studies, or theoretical discussions written by experts, researchers, or scholars. They are common in fields like science, medicine, law and the humanities. Academic journals aim to advance knowledge in a specific area.

For example: The Lancet Journal of Medical Research.

2. There are journals that are written by individuals, often in a private format like a diary, where they record personal thoughts, experiences, and reflections. They are known as Personal Journals. They serve as a tool for self-expression, self-examination and documentation of daily life.
3. Professional Journals focus on industry-specific topics for practitioners in fields like business, education, and healthcare. These Journals are often published regularly (monthly, quarterly, or annually) and can be printed or available digitally.

National Newspapers

When we mention National newspapers, we mean to say that they are publications that cover news and events important to an entire country. They focus on a broad range of topics such as politics, economy, culture, sports, and entertainment. National newspapers often have wide distribution within the country and may provide coverage of both domestic and international affairs.

1. The Daily Graphic (Ghana)
2. The New York Times (USA)
3. The Times of India (India)
4. The Times (UK) The Independent (UK) The Daily Telegraph (UK) The Guardian (UK)

Features of a National Newspaper

1. **Wide Geographic Coverage:** This covers news and events from every part of the country and sometimes international news, appealing to a broad audience across the nation.
2. **Comprehensive News Section** is another feature of a National Newspaper which usually has multiple sections, such as politics, economy, business, sports, entertainment, technology, health, and international news.
3. **Prominent Editorial Section:** They present editorial pieces, opinion articles and commentaries from expert columnists, offering analysis and perspectives on current affairs.
4. **In-depth Reporting and Investigative Journalism:** These newspapers often have a team of journalists who produce in-depth reports and investigative articles on significant national or international issues.
5. **High Production Quality:** In most cases National newspapers often have a large staff of professional writers, editors, and photographers, leading to well – researched and polished articles with quality images and infographics.
6. **Daily Circulation:** the majority of newspapers are published daily, although some may also have weekend editions with more features, special reports, or magazines.
7. **Online Presence:** Most national newspapers have a robust online platform, offering real-time news updates, videos, and multimedia content, often with subscription models or paywalls.
8. **Advertisements and Classifieds:** National papers feature prominent advertisements, including classified advertisements for jobs, real estate, and services, which help generate revenue.

9. **Supplementary Sections:** They often include special sections, such as lifestyle, culture, travel, education, sport, and sometimes games or puzzles.

How to Write a National Newspaper

You need the guidelines below to write successfully to a National Newspaper

1. You have to understand the audience, your writing should appeal to various population statistics or census data in terms of geography, age, and interests. Avoid overly localised references and ensure clarity for readers from different parts of the country.
2. **Choose a Relevant Topic:** Choose a topic that is of national importance, whether it is related to politics, economics, social issues, sports, or culture. Make sure that it's timely and newsworthy. Look for angles that could have a broader impact or significance beyond one region.
3. National Newspapers demand accuracy and depth. Do thorough research on your topic using credible or accurate sources. Include data, quotations from experts, and statistics where appropriate to provide credibility and to support your arguments. Ensure you present a balanced view, especially on controversial topics.
4. Write a strong lead. Ensure your lead sentence or opening sentence should be catchy and succinct. It should immediately convey the importance of the story and encourage the reader to continue. In the case of new stories, start with the most important information (who, what, where, when, why, and how).
5. Use a Neutral and Professional Tone
6. Provide Quotes and Sources
7. Structure the Article
8. Focus on Clarity and Simplicity
9. **Edit and Revise:** Proofread your work for grammar, punctuation, and factual accuracy. Revisit your piece for flow, clarity and structure. Ensure your article is well-polished before submission.
10. Keep your piece brief and to the point. Cut out unnecessary information while retaining the core message.
11. Ensure you submit your article to the appropriate section of the newspaper - news, opinions, sports. Familiarise yourself with the style and focus of each section to ensure your article fits.
12. **Follow Submission Guidelines.** Always follow submission guidelines, including format, word count, and deadlines. Some newspapers accept uninvited submissions, particularly for opinion pieces, while others may require prior approval or pitches.

You are assured of a suitable article for a national newspaper by engaging a broad audience while maintaining accuracy and journalistic standards.

International Newspapers

Also known as Global newspapers are those that are published with the intention of reaching a global audience, often with editions or content tailored to multiple countries. They cover worldwide news, issues, and events and are often seen as authoritative sources of information on global matters. International newspapers often maintain correspondents or bureaus in multiple countries.

- a. The Wall Street Journal (USA, international editions)
- b. The Financial Times (UK, global readership)
- c. Le Monde (France International audience)

NB: National newspapers are basically focused on domestic issues with some international news while international newspapers aim at global events and trends, often influencing international policy and business decisions.

Features of an International Newspaper

1. Global Coverage
2. International Correspondents: They typically have correspondents stationed around the world, offering firsthand accounts of events in different countries. This helps provide in-depth, on the ground reporting from various regions.
3. Coverage of International Politics and Relations: This involves the coverage of international diplomacy, global organisations e.g. the UN, WTO, IMF), and relations between countries is central. Issues like treaties, alliances, sanctions, and trade agreements often feature prominently,
4. Business and Economic News
5. Audience Diversity: They cater to an international audience, which may include expatriates, business people, diplomats and travellers. This means articles are often written in a more neutral, globally comprehensible tone, avoiding overly localised slang or references.
6. Multimedia Platforms: International newspapers often have a strong digital presence, with websites, apps, and social media platforms offering multimedia content, including videos, podcasts, and interactive features. This caters to global readers who access news from different time zones
7. In- depth Investigations and Features
8. Global Opinions and Commentary: They often feature opinion pieces and editorial from global leaders, experts, and commentators. These pieces offer analysis on major international issues from different perspectives, reflecting a wide range of views.
9. Coverage of Global Culture and Trends: These newspapers explore international arts, culture, technology, and lifestyle trends. They report on global events such as international film festivals, art exhibitions, and technological advancements.
10. Focus on Travel and International living. International newspapers feature sections on international travel, expatriate life, global real estate and living abroad.

How To Write For Publication In An International Paper

1. Know your Global Audience
2. Select a Global or Cross-Border Topic
3. Current Events: Pay attention to international trends, crises, or
4. events that are making headlines globally and resonate with readers from multiple regions.
5. Use a clear and National Tone. Try to avoid the use of biased language, especially when reporting on international issues or conflicts or sensitive political issues. Maintain an impartial professional tone.
6. Craft a strong, Global Lead
7. Structure Your Article for Global Readership
8. Include Multiple Voices and Perspectives.
9. Clarity Context and Background
10. Edit for Clarity and Precision

ACTIVITY 24.1

1. Examine the sample of an article below and identify the features

“Should School Uniforms Be Mandatory?”

As students, we’ve all had our fair share of debates about school uniforms. Some of us love the idea of wearing the same attire every day, while others despise the thought of losing our personal style. But is it really that simple? In my opinion, school uniforms should be mandatory, and here’s why.

School uniforms eliminate the pressure to wear trendy or expensive clothing, creating a more equal environment for students from different socio-economic backgrounds. When everyone looks the same, no one stands out for wearing hand-me-downs or thrift store finds.

Uniforms minimise distractions caused by revealing or provocative clothing, allowing us to focus on our studies instead of our peers’ outfits. This helps maintain a professional and respectful atmosphere in the classroom.

Wearing uniforms teaches us discipline and responsibility, essential life skills that extend beyond the classroom. By adhering to a dress code, we learn to follow rules and respect authority.

Some argue that uniforms restrict our self-expression and creativity. However, I believe there are other ways to express ourselves, such as through extracurricular activities, art, or writing.

In conclusion, mandatory school uniforms promote equality, reduce distractions, and encourage discipline. While some may argue it restricts self-expression, I believe the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. So, let’s embrace our school uniforms and focus on what really matters – our education.

2. Call a friend and compose the introduction paragraph of an article for publication,
3. With the help of your classmates, compose a suitable article for publication in your school magazine using the features of how to write an article.
4. Identify an issue in your school and write an article on it and present it to the class.

Review Questions

1. Write down the features of an article.
2. Compose the introduction paragraph of an article for publication in your school magazine on ‘The reasons why some students indulge in examination malpractice’.
3. Write an article suitable for publication in any of the local newspapers on ‘The Effects of Indiscipline on Academic Performance’.
4. Identify one pressing issue in your community and write a suitable article for publication in any national / international newspapers on the issue to be presented first of all in class.

Answers to Review Questions

1. Features of an article are Title/Heading, Introduction, Main Body, Conclusion and Subscription.
2. **** To be written based on the learner's creativity. ****
3. **** To be written based on the learner's creativity. ****
4. **** To be written based on the learner's creativity. ****

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