












# Write your own Tabloid Splash!

Your practical assignment is to write and create a fictitious front page showbiz exclusive for a tabloid newspaper.

You have already planned your story – **now it's time to write it.** The advice below is meant to help you – but if you find any of this difficult don't worry – just move on to the next point! There are far more marks for your *design* than for your *writing*.

**This week you should write your story for homework, ready to include it on your tabloid front page, which you are designing in class. E-mail it to school (see bottom) when it's finished.**

## Top tips

-  The headline should be accurate and in the present tense.
-  The first sentence needs to be short and dramatic. Surprise your reader! Make them curious.
-  Use the 5 W's and H – who is the story about, what happened, when did it happen, how, where and, most important, why?
-  News stories always start with what's **new**. Put the most important facts first.
-  The tabloid *mode of address* is quite informal, and tends to use short, sharp sentences, active verbs and a straightforward vocabulary.
-  Look at the different ways in which newspapers describe people. "The 42-year-old father of two", "star of War of the Worlds", "former page 3 model" etc.
-  Keep the article brief – don't bore your reader and don't make it too complicated to understand. Be incisive.
-  Be fair – there are at least two sides to every story. Let the readers make up their own minds. Personal opinion – "I think," or "In the opinion of this newspaper," does not belong on a newspaper front page.
-  Avoid clichés – find new ways to describe familiar people and events.
-  Search for a special ingredient – make your story stand out from the others
-  Think about imagery – what sort of picture or pictures will you want with your story? Can you source these online – or take them yourself?

### Students aiming for high marks should note:

- Be aware of the laws of libel! Few editors would take the risk of running a sensationalized story without evidence. Your story should refer to named eye-witnesses etc. You should also consider carefully your target audience: tabloids are broadly aimed at a family market and avoid graphic descriptions and sexually explicit or inappropriate language.
- For extra marks, consider carefully what the inside pages could do to elaborate on the story (family images, timelines, witness statements, biographies, 'the road to shame', expert analysis, similar scandals and outcomes...)
- Think about your *mode of address*, the way your paper speaks to its audience.

**Bring a printout to class next week, AND EMAIL A COPY TO MR ALLISON:  
media@sandringham.herts.sch.uk**