



Maggie Mae Pup Reporter's Writing Tips

Maggie Mae has a nose for news. You can too! Want to be a reporter like Maggie Mae? Follow these steps to writing your news article.

- 1. Pick your topic:** Have a plan for what you want to write about. Brainstorm story topics. Write about something that interests you: a person, place, event, or thing.
- 2. Research your topic:** Find out as much as you can about your topic. It's always good to have more information than you need. Think about what you want to know about the topic and develop questions for yourself to answer and if you are going to interview an expert.
- 3. Conduct interviews:** Interview experts on your topic. If you are writing about an event, interview the person who is organizing it. If you are writing about your dog, interview a veterinarian or dog trainer. Primary sources make the article more interesting. Be sure to take good notes. And follow up with a thank-you note!
- 4. Write the first sentence:** A good first sentence or lead for the story will grab the attention of the reader and they will want to continue reading!
- 5. Write the rest of the story:** Be sure you answer the following questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Use direct quotes to make the story more interesting.
- 6. Revise and edit your first draft:** Read your rough draft aloud. Have a friend or a parent read it and see if they have any suggestions to make the story better. See if they have any questions that you didn't answer in your story. You may write several drafts, but that's okay!
- 7. Create a headline:** The headline or title of your story should catch the attention of the reader. Look at a newspaper or magazine and see which headlines grab your attention. That's what your goal is.

You are now ready to publish! Have fun on this journey!