

Lesson Plan: Sports Reporter for a Day!

Materials Needed:

- A device with internet access (for watching a short video clip and finding articles)
- Printer (to print 3-4 sample sports articles)
- Scissors
- Construction paper or a large sheet of paper
- Glue stick or tape
- Pen or pencil
- A notebook or journal (can be decorated as a "Reporter's Notebook")
- Highlighters (optional, but helpful)

Lesson Procedure

I. Introduction: The Opening Play (5-7 minutes)

Goal: To spark interest and connect the lesson to a real-world experience.

1. **Warm-Up: The "Wow" Moment.**

Let's start by watching a short, exciting sports highlight clip (e.g., a game-winning basketball shot, a spectacular goal in soccer, a thrilling gymnastics routine).

2. **Discussion Starter:**

"Aira Marie, that was incredible! Imagine you just saw that happen live. How would you tell your best friend about it? What would you say first? What details would you include to make them feel the excitement?"

3. **Connecting to the Lesson:**

"That's perfect! Just like you would tell the story in a certain way, professional sports journalists do the same thing. But they have different 'playbooks' or structures depending on their goal. Some want to give you the facts fast, some want to tell you an emotional story about an athlete, and some want to share a strong opinion. Today, you're going to be a 'Sports Reporter for a Day,' and your mission is to crack the code of these different structures!"

II. Activity 1: The Sports Desk Analyst (15-20 minutes)

Goal: To identify the structure and purpose of sports news, feature, and editorial articles. (Aligns with Objective A)

1. **The Assignment:**

"Welcome to the sports desk, Analyst Aira! Here are three articles about recent sports events. Your job is to be a detective. Read each one and figure out its secret mission."

2. **Provide Three Pre-Printed Articles:**

- **Article 1: A Sports News Report** (A straightforward report on a game's outcome).
- **Article 2: A Sports Feature** (A human-interest story about an athlete's comeback, background, or journey).
- **Article 3: A Sports Editorial** (An opinion piece arguing why a team should trade a player, or why a rule should be changed).

3. **The "Analyst's Cheat Sheet":**

In your Reporter's Notebook, create a simple chart with three columns: "News Report,"

"Feature," and "Editorial." As you read, let's fill in the answers to these questions for each one:

- **What is its main purpose?** (To INFORM quickly? To ENTERTAIN/INSPIRE? To PERSUADE?)

- **What is the writer's tone?** (Just the facts? Emotional and descriptive? Opinionated and argumentative?)
- **How is it structured?** (Most important info first? Like a story with a beginning/middle/end? An argument with a clear point?)

4. **Guided Discussion:**

After you've had time to read and jot down notes, we'll discuss your findings. I'll help you identify the key structures:

- **News Report:** The Inverted Pyramid. The most important facts (Who, What, Where, When) are right at the top! The details follow, from most to least important. Its purpose is to inform efficiently.
- **Feature:** A Narrative Arc. It hooks you with a creative opening, tells a story, and leaves you with a memorable ending. Its purpose is to connect with the reader on an emotional level.
- **Editorial:** An Argumentative Structure. It presents a clear opinion (thesis), supports it with reasons and evidence, and often ends with a call to action. Its purpose is to persuade.

III. Activity 2: Breaking News Jigsaw Puzzle! (10-15 minutes)

Goal: To actively examine the structure of a sports news article by reassembling it. (Aligns with Objective B)

1. **The Challenge:**

"Oh no! A breaking news story just came through the wire, but the printer has jumbled all the paragraphs! We need to get this story ready for publication, fast! Your next mission is to put it back together in the correct order."

2. **Prepare the Puzzle:**

I will give you a pre-printed sports news report that I have cut into separate paragraphs (headline, lead paragraph, body paragraphs with quotes, and concluding details).

3. **Solve the Puzzle:**

Using what you just learned about the "Inverted Pyramid," arrange the paper strips on the large construction paper and glue them down in the right order. Remember to look for the most critical information (the 5 Ws) for the lead paragraph at the very top!

4. **Review and Confirm:**

Once you're done, we'll read the reassembled article aloud to see if it flows logically and delivers the news clearly. Great job saving the story!

IV. Conclusion: Your Final Take (5 minutes)

Goal: To reflect on the importance of text structure for clear communication. (Aligns with Objective C)

1. **The Editor's Question:**

"As the 'Editor-in-Chief' for the day, you've done a fantastic job analyzing and structuring articles. Now for one final thought. In your Reporter's Notebook, let's answer this big question:"

"Why is it so important for a sports article to have a good, clear structure? How does it help the reader understand and enjoy the story of the game or the athlete?"

2. **Share Your Reflection:**

You can write down your thoughts or share them with me verbally. Your answer will be your "final take" for today's sports news cycle. This helps us see that structure isn't just a rule; it's a tool that writers use to make their stories powerful and clear for their audience.

Extension Activity (Optional)

"If you're up for an extra challenge, reporter, pick your favorite athlete or sports team. Write a catchy headline and the first paragraph (the lead) for THREE different articles about them: a news report about their last game, a feature about what makes them inspiring, and an editorial arguing why they are the best of all time!"