

Checking out Leads (5-2)

DIRECTIONS:

In your local or school newspaper, find three examples of well-written leads, each containing at least five of the six elements of the five Ws and an H. Copy the leads on your own paper. Then list the Who or What? Did or Does What? When? Where? Why? How? Contained in each.

WRITING ORIGINAL LEADS (5-3)

DIRECTIONS:

Because reporters must learn to get ideas across without wasting words, one rule for writing leads limits each to no more than 28-30 words. You may wish to check the leads in previous exercises and your local newspapers to see how closely they follow this count.

Then, write five original leads, based on school activities, a scene in a story you've read, or your own imagination. Include at least 5 of the six Ws and Hs in each. Rewrite and polish your work to cut out unnecessary words and deliver the facts clearly and in fewer than 30 words.