

Current Events and Proofreading Homework

Dear Students,

Every week this term you will be asked to write about six different areas of current events that occur in that week—*The Week That Was* (TWTW). We are going to combine this writing with targeted proofreading practice to help develop your accuracy with spelling and punctuation.

Each week you can use newspapers, TV, radio or the internet to find out about current events that affect the following areas:

- Me
- School
- Local
- National (could affect local or personal situations but must be based nationally)
- International (could affect national, local or personal situations but must be based internationally)
- Sport (do not use sport in any of the other sections)

You should:

Write four or six paragraphs of at least six to eight sentences about these areas of current events over the week. Choose a different area for each paragraph.

Write these paragraphs in your homework book in black or blue ink. Leave the margin clear for marking. Although this is a draft, please take care with handwriting and presentation to make it easier to proofread for spelling and punctuation. If you write on alternate lines it also makes proofreading and editing easier.

Write a heading above each paragraph to show which current event area it relates to. Use the *Who, What, When, Where, Why* questions to ensure you include all the details of the event(s). You can also express your own opinions, once you have written about the background information. Each paragraph could be about one incident in this area of current events or it may include more than one incident. You might also like to follow one event from week to week and write about new incidents as they happen. You will have punctuation and spelling targets. Try to include each of these targets at least once in each paragraph you write. When you have finished writing the paragraph, use the Editing Guide and proofread for errors. Correct any errors you find if you are able to. Record the number of errors you find on the feedback sheet.

Highlight where you have correctly applied the punctuation and spelling knowledge that are your targets for the week. Each week you need to highlight at least six places in your current events paragraphs that show where you have applied your proofreading targets.

When you have finished proofreading your paragraphs, write (P) at the end. Complete the feedback sheet and hand it in with the completed and proofread paragraphs on Friday.

Your work will be marked and the feedback sheet completed by your teacher. Take this feedback sheet home and show it to your parents/guardians and ask them to sign it.

As you improve your skills with the spelling and punctuation targets, these will be discontinued and you will be given others. Make sure you continue to self-correct any errors with the original target areas, even if your focus is now on something else.

Your teacher will mark your work using the Editing Guide and will also rate the quality of your writing, using the following criteria:

- Inadequate. Please see teacher.
 - Some paragraphs are too short (not six sentences).
OR Some paragraphs do not have enough detail.
OR More details are needed to show your understanding of the events.
 - All sections have at least six sentences.
All sections show an understanding of the events, and details that include answers to the relevant Who, What, When, Where, Why questions.
 - All sections include the criteria for (C) but include *detailed* explanations of the events.
 - All paragraphs include the criteria for (D) and show a *thorough understanding* of the issues and circumstances of the events.
- Please take this letter home to show your parents/guardians.

Teacher's signature _____

Parent/guardian's signature _____