**PROMISES - Writing Assignment**

After viewing the brief introduction of each of the seven children featured in the PROMISES documentary, you were asked to select a child of your choice to follow more closely and take notes on their lives: experiences, attitudes, challenges, fears, hopes and dreams for the future, etc. You were asked to imagine walking beside your selected child throughout the film, asking any questions that came to mind.

****

You will now write an informational feature article for National Geographic Magazine based on your new knowledge of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the perspective of the child you followed. You are to choose one of the following formats for your article:

1. You will write your informational feature article from your own perspective and based on the new knowledge you have gained from our study of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the perspective of the child you chose to follow.
2. You are the child you chose to follow and your informational feature article will be written from that child’s perspective.
3. Your informational feature article will be in the format of an interview between you and the child you chose to follow.

**Informational Feature Article** - An informational feature article is a creative article that deals with real events. Unlike straight news articles, it places emphasis on the people involved rather than on the facts of the news.

The article serves as a human interest history lesson. It puts a “human face” on history. In other words, it lets the reader know something about the people who were part of history.

The writer also makes a personal connection to the subject and includes his/her voice.

**Various Ways to Include Details in an Article:**

Anecdotes Examples/Non-examples Vignettes Tables/Graphs/Charts Descriptions Facts

Comparison Contrast Snapshots Pictures/Drawings Reasons Quotations Flashback Foreshadowing

**Types of Text Features:**

Headings Fonts Subheadings Bullets Offsets

Text Boxes Color Ink Italics Bold Font

Underlining

All Capital Letters

**Feature Article Organizer**

Step One

|  |
| --- |
| **List Possible Topics:** |
| **Topic/Idea Selected:** |
| **Why?** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **List things your audience may already know about your topic:** | **List things your audience needs to know about your topic:** |

|  |
| --- |
| Focusing on what your audience needs to know, what is the focused purpose of your feature article? |

**Feature Article Organizer**

Step Two

**(purpose)**

**(audience)**

**Purpose Statement: As a , I am Writing a feature article about to/for because .**

**List ideas you have for possible sources of information regarding your topic:**

**List/cite sources where you found information about your topic:**

**Vocabulary important to my topic and audience:**

**Feature Article Organizer**

Step Three

**Purpose of my feature article:**

**Details**

Think about ***how*** you want to share ideas/information with your reader. Listed are ways to include details in your article. (You may think of others.) Use this space to plan interesting ways you can get information to your audience.

Anecdotes Vignettes Quotes Facts

Foreshadowing Pictures Flashback

Comparison/contrast

Reason/examples/non-examples Tables/charts/graphs

\*\*\*\*\*Remember to DOCUMENT your sources!\*\*\*\*

### **Feature Article Organizer**

Step Four

**Organization and catching the Reader’s Attention: Draw sketches of *how*** you want your article to look on the page. Features such as **headlines, catchy titles, subheadings, bullets, bold print, fonts, color, offsets,** etc. can sometimes capture a reader’s attention.

**The First Draft: After you have gathered and thought about all this information, you will write a rough outline, list headings, use highlighters to organize your notes, draw webs, use the *“house”* graphic organizer or do whatever works for you to give you a structure for organizing information.**

**Notes:**

**Before Drafting Your FEATURE ARTICLE:**

* **Have you focused on a purpose (the What/So What) for your article?**
* **Have you provided appropriate information for your intended audience/reader through the use of details that will support and develop your main idea?**
* **Have you documented where your information was found?**

### **Different Types of Leads**

It is very important to have an engaging lead to capture the attention of the reader into your piece. There are many different ways to grab a reader’s attention:

1. Dialogue
2. A scene with a character engaged in an activity
3. A startling argument
4. A contrast
5. A generalization
6. A question
7. An intriguing detail
8. An anecdote
9. A quotation
10. A “face” for an issue or an event
11. A “what-if” or “might-have-been”
12. The effect (of a cause