

Special Program in Journalism

Quarter 2 – Module 4
**Differentiating Straight News
from a News Feature**



Special Program in Journalism – Grade 5

Alternative Delivery Mode

Quarter 2 – Module 4: Differentiating Straight from a News Feature

First Edition, 2024

Republic Act 8293, section 176 states that: No copyright shall subsist in any work of the Government of the Philippines. However, prior approval of the government agency or office wherein the work is created shall be necessary for exploitation of such work for profit. Such agency or office may, among other things, impose as a condition the payment of royalties.

Borrowed materials (i.e., songs, stories, poems, pictures, photos, brand names, trademarks, etc.) included in this module are owned by their respective copyright holders. Every effort has been exerted to locate and seek permission to use these materials from their respective copyright owners. The publisher and authors do not represent nor claim ownership over them.

Published by the Department of Education

Secretary: Sara Zimmerman Duterte-Carpio

Undersecretary: Gina O. Gonong

Development Team of the Module

Writer: Maryelle C. Macapia

Editors: Dante S. Abella, Vissia B. Asuncion

Reviewers: Mara Karla S. Macalan, Krysta Lynne I. Fuertes

Maria Theresa B. Molina

Illustrator: Aisan S. Sy

Layout Artist: Honeylet S. Cauilan

Management Team: Gilbert N. Tong

Jonathan A. Fronda

Estela S. Cabaro

Mara Karla S. Macalan

Dante S. Abella

Printed in the Philippines by _____

Department of Education – Region II – Division of Tuguegarao City

Office Address: Dalan na Pagayaya, Regional Government Center, Carig Sur,
Tuguegarao City

Telephone Number: (078) 377 - 8805

E-mail Address: tuguegarao@deped.gov.ph

5

Special Program in Journalism

Quarter 2 – Module 4
Differentiating Straight News
from a News Feature

Introductory Message

This Self-Learning Module (SLM) is prepared so that you, our dear learners, can continue your studies and learn while at home. Activities, questions, directions, exercises, and discussions are carefully stated for you to understand each lesson.

Each SLM is composed of different parts. Each part shall guide you step-by-step as you discover and understand the lesson prepared for you.

Pre-tests are provided to measure your prior knowledge on lessons in each SLM. This will tell you if you need to proceed on completing this module or if you need to ask your facilitator or your teacher's assistance for better understanding of the lesson. At the end of each module, you need to answer the post-test to self-check your learning. Answer keys are provided for each activity and test. We trust that you will be honest in using these.

In addition to the material in the main text, Notes to the Teacher are also provided to our facilitators and parents for strategies and reminders on how they can best help you on your home-based learning.

Please use this module with care. Do not put unnecessary marks on any part of this SLM. Use a separate sheet of paper in answering the exercises and tests. And read the instructions carefully before performing each task.

If you have any questions in using this SLM or any difficulty in answering the tasks in this module, do not hesitate to consult your teacher or facilitator.

Thank you.



What I Need to Know

In this module, you will learn how to differentiate straight news from news feature stories.

Lesson:

- Differentiating straight news from a news feature

Competency: Differentiate straight news from news feature stories
(SPJ5New-lle-11)

After going through this module, you are expected to:

1. identify elements of straight news and news feature stories;
2. differentiate between straight news and news feature stories; and
3. write a news feature story or straight news story integrating the elements attributed to each type.



What I Know

Directions: Choose the letter of the correct answer.

- ____ 1. What is the primary purpose of straight news stories?
 - A. To engage readers emotionally
 - B. To provide deeper insights and context
 - C. To deliver facts concisely and objectively
 - D. To explore implications and background events

- ____ 2. Which structure is typically followed by straight news stories?
 - A. Circular structure
 - B. Narrative structure
 - C. Chronological structure
 - D. Inverted pyramid structure

- ____ 3. What tone and style are the characteristics of straight news stories?
 - A. Creative and engaging
 - B. Emotional and personal
 - C. Neutral and objective
 - D. Opinionated and biased

- ____ 4. What is the main difference in the depth of coverage between straight news and news feature stories?
 - A. Straight news stories provide deeper analysis.
 - B. News feature stories provide a basic overview of events.
 - C. News feature stories cover the essential facts concisely.
 - D. Straight news stories extract in-depth information from official sources.

- ____ 5. Whom do straight news stories primarily target?
 - A. Readers seeking emotional engagement
 - B. Readers looking for storytelling techniques
 - C. Readers interested in context and background
 - D. Readers wanting quick and efficient information

- ____ 6. What is the primary source of information for straight news stories?
 - A. Personal stories
 - B. Expert opinions
 - C. Background research
 - D. Official sources and key figures

- ____ 7. How does the length of straight news stories compare to news feature stories?
 - A. News feature stories are typically longer
 - B. Straight news stories are typically longer
 - C. News feature stories are typically shorter
 - D. Straight news stories are typically shorter

____ 8. Which of the following is a characteristic of news feature stories?

- A. They aim for brevity and clarity.
- B. They rely primarily on official sources.
- C. They focus on delivering information objectively.
- D. They include descriptive language and personal perspectives.

____ 9. Which type of story may incorporate storytelling techniques such as anecdotes and interviews?

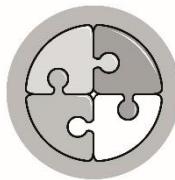
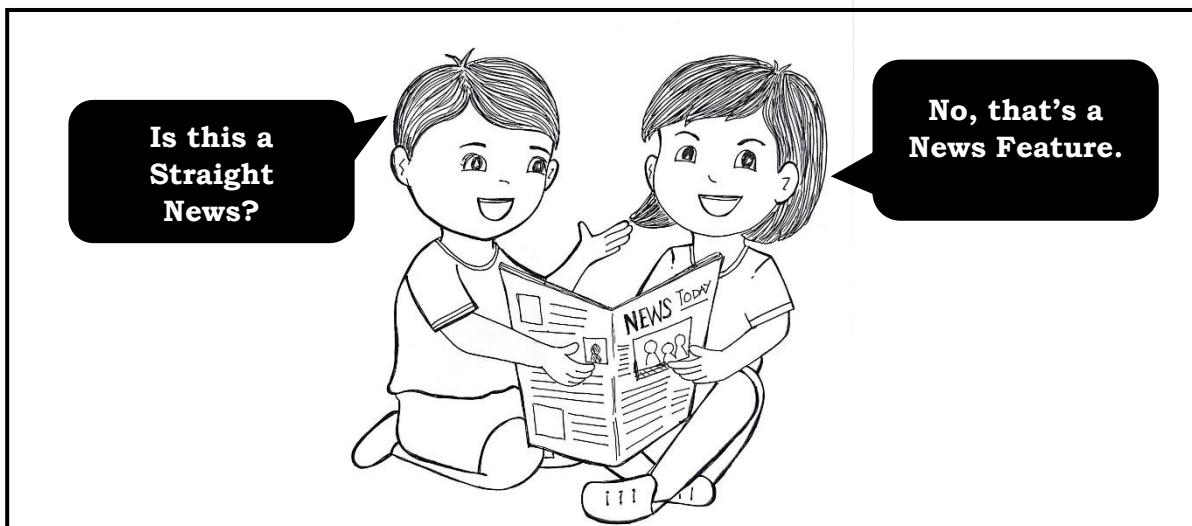
- A. Editorials
- B. Opinion pieces
- C. News feature stories
- D. Straight news stories

____ 10. What is the primary aim of news feature stories?

- A. To rely solely on official sources
- B. To provide a basic overview of events
- C. To deliver information quickly and efficiently
- D. To engage readers emotionally and intellectually

Lesson 1

Differentiating Straight News from a News Feature



What's In

Let's dive into the exciting world of news reporting!

Have you ever wondered what makes a news story different from a news feature? Let's find out!

Straight News:

Imagine you're in a hurry to tell your friend about something important that just happened. That's how straight news works!

Straight news stories are like a speedy train, rushing through the "who," "what," "when," "where," "why," and "how" of an event. They give readers the essential facts they need to know, like a snapshot of what's going on. Straight news stories are urgent and practical, just like when we need to know if it's going to rain tomorrow or what's happening in our country's politics.

News Feature:

Now, picture sitting down with your friend for a cozy chat. That's what reading a news feature feels like!

In news features, we take our time to explore a story. We add colorful details, feelings, and even a sprinkle of humor.

News features are all about making the story interesting and entertaining for our readers. They might not be as urgent as straight news, but they sure are fun to read!

Imagine learning about the adventures of a local hero or discovering the secrets of a mysterious place—that's news feature magic!

Spotting the Difference:

So, how can we tell if a story is straight news or a news feature? It's all about the vibe! Straight news stories are serious and to the point, like a quick message to a friend. They cover big, important events like elections or natural disasters.

On the other hand, news features are like a storybook, full of fun details and surprises. They might talk about interesting people or cool places in our town.

So, Grade 5 journalists, are you ready to uncover exciting stories and share them with the world? Remember, whether it's straight news or a news feature, every story is a chance to spark curiosity and spread knowledge!

Happy reporting!



What's New

Directions: Read the two articles. Below, you will find questions about Article 1 and Article 2. Then, answer the questions about each article using the tables provided. Use the separate tables for each article to write your answers.

1. What is the purpose of the story?
2. How is the information organized in the stories?
3. What writing style was used?
4. How thoroughly are the basic facts covered?
5. How effectively does the story inform the audience?
6. Who are the primary sources of information in the story?

ARTICLE 1:

Reduced Rainfall:

El Niño feared stifling PH agri output in 2024

MANILA, Philippines -The prolonged dry spell caused by the El Niño climate pattern may pull down agriculture production this year despite improved output in the fourth quarter of 2023, according to economists.

Michael Ricafort, chief economist at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., told the Inquirer on Tuesday that El Niño, characterized by long periods of drought, could reduce rainfall and consequently cut the production of rice and other agricultural products.

“El Niño would be a risk factor, or drag, in terms of reduced rainfall that reduces agricultural output and production until the second quarter of 2024,” Ricafort said in a text message.

This projection came after the Philippine Statistics Authority reported that the agriculture sector improved by 0.7 percent in the last quarter of 2023, driven mainly by higher crop, poultry and livestock production.

This brought the overall value of agriculture to P493.73 billion, up from P490.06 billion the previous year, the PSA said.

Rice production

Poultry production expanded by 7.8 percent to P67.65 billion as all commodities “recorded improvements in the value of production.” This accounted for 13.7 percent of the total agriculture output.

Reduced Rainfall... (CONTINUATION)

Crop production, which accounted for the majority of the total agriculture output at 58.7 percent, rose slightly to P290 billion from P289.9 billion.

This translates to 13.2 MMT of rice, which the Department of Agriculture said could reduce rice import volume to 3.5 MMT from 3.8 MMT in 2022. Ricafort explained that the overall improvement could be attributed to the “unusually lower number of typhoons” that entered the country last year, resulting in less storm damage to agriculture.

“Furthermore, various government initiatives and intervention measures to boost rice and overall agricultural productivity in recent months also partly supported the improvement in agricultural production growth,” he said.

The fisheries subsector was the sole outlier, contracting by 5.2 percent year-on-year to P63.97 billion. INQ

Source: <https://news.inquirer.net/443358/el-nino-feared-stifling-ph-agri-output-in-24#ixzz8akY5lLle>

Table 1:

Article 1: El Niño feared stifling PH agri output in 2024	
Question	Answer
1. What is the purpose of the story?	
2. How is the information organized in the stories?	
3. What writing style was used?	
4. How thoroughly are the basic facts covered?	
5. How effectively does the story inform the audience?	
6. Who are the primary sources of information in the story?	

ARTICLE 2:

The Tale of Philippine Agriculture Amidst El Niño's Fury

In the lands of the Philippines, where emerald rice paddies stretch to meet the horizon and the vibrant hues of vegetable fields paint a patchwork quilt across the landscape, lies a tale of resilience and uncertainty.

Here, amidst the whispers of the wind and the dance of raindrops, Filipino farmers tread a delicate balance between hope and apprehension as they confront the looming specter of El Niño.

For centuries, the rhythms of nature have shaped the fate of Philippine agriculture, with the whims of weather dictating the ebb and flow of harvests.

Yet, perhaps none wield as much power and influence as El Niño, the enigmatic climate phenomenon known for its capricious temperament and far-reaching consequences. As the nation braces for another encounter with this formidable force, economists and farmers alike find themselves ensnared in a tangle of forecasts and fears.

Michael Ricafort, a seasoned economist at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., paints a sobering picture of the challenges ahead. "El Niño would be a risk factor, or drag, in terms of reduced rainfall that reduces agricultural output and production until the second quarter of 2024," he warns, his voice tinged with concern for the livelihoods that hang in the balance.

His words echo through the bustling streets of Manila, reverberating across the archipelago to reach the ears of farmers like Juanito Cruz, a weathered soul whose calloused hands bear the scars of a lifetime spent toiling in the fields.

For Juanito, the threat of El Niño is not just a matter of economics; it is a battle for survival. "We've weathered many storms in our time, but El Niño...it's a different beast altogether," he muses, his eyes clouded with memories of past hardships.

Yet, amidst the uncertainty, glimmers of hope flicker like fireflies in the night. The recent report from the Philippine Statistics Authority offers a ray of optimism, with a modest uptick of 0.7 percent in the agriculture sector during the final quarter of 2023.

This progress, fueled by increased crop, poultry, and livestock production, serves as a testament to the resilience of Filipino farmers in the face of adversity.

Poultry production, in particular, emerges as a beacon of success, boasting a robust expansion of 7.8 percent to reach P67.65 billion. Across the nation, the clucking of chickens and the crowing of roosters herald a newfound sense of prosperity, a stark contrast to the foreboding clouds that loom on the horizon.

The Tale of Philippine Agriculture... (CONTINUATION)

Yet, for all its triumphs, the agriculture sector remains ensnared in a web of complexities and contradictions. While crop production inches forward, buoyed by government-led initiatives and interventions, the fisheries subsector languishes in the shadows, contracting by 5.2 percent year-on-year to P63.97 billion. The plight of fishermen, their nets empty and their spirits waning, serves as a poignant reminder of the fragility of life on the water's edge.

As the nation grapples with the dual challenges of climate variability and economic exigencies, the fate of Philippine agriculture hangs in the balance. From the verdant fields of Nueva Ecija to the bustling markets of Cebu, the pulse of the nation quickens with each passing day, a testament to the enduring spirit of resilience that courses through the Filipino soul.

In the end, amidst the tumult of El Niño and the vagaries of fate, it is the human spirit that emerges as the true force of nature. For as long as there are seeds to sow and dreams to harvest, the fields of the Philippines will continue to flourish, nurtured by the sweat and tears of those who call them home.

Source: <https://news.inquirer.net/443358/el-nino-feared-stifling-ph-agri-output-in-24#ixzz8akY5Lle>

Table 2:

Article 2: The Tale of Philippine Agriculture Amidst El Niño's Fury	
Question	Answer
1. What is the purpose of the story?	
2. How is the information organized in the stories?	
3. What writing style was used?	
4. How thoroughly are the basic facts covered?	
5. How effectively does the story inform the audience?	
6. Who are the primary sources of information in the story?	



What is It

Were you able to fill out the tables? If not, do not worry! Read on further to know the differences of news feature stories and straight news stories.

Here's how they compare and contrast in terms of elements:

1. Purpose:

- a. Straight news stories aim to deliver the facts concisely and objectively. They answer the questions who, what, when, where, why, and how.
- b. News feature stories aim to provide deeper insights, human interest, and context. They often explore the implications and background of events rather than just reporting the basic facts.

2. Structure:

- a. Straight news stories typically follow the inverted pyramid structure, with the most important information presented at the beginning followed by additional details in descending order of importance.
- b. News feature stories may have a more narrative structure, allowing for storytelling techniques such as anecdotes, interviews, and descriptive scenes. They often have a lead that draws readers in and may not necessarily follow the inverted pyramid format.

3. Tone and Style:

- a. Straight news stories are written in a neutral, objective tone, focusing on delivering information without bias or opinion.
- b. News feature stories may employ a more creative and engaging writing style. They may include descriptive language, quotes from interviews, and personal perspectives to add depth and color to the story.

4. Depth of Coverage:

- a. Straight news stories provide a basic overview of an event or topic, covering the essential facts in a concise manner.
- b. News feature stories delve deeper into the subject matter, exploring different angles, providing background information, and offering analysis or interpretation.

5. Audience Engagement:

- a. Straight news stories are aimed at readers who seek to be informed quickly and efficiently. They prioritize clarity and brevity.
- b. News feature stories target readers who are interested in more than just the basic facts. They aim to engage readers emotionally and intellectually by providing context, human interest, and a deeper understanding of the issue at hand.

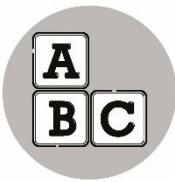
6. Use of Sources:

- a. Straight news stories rely primarily on official sources and quotes from key figures involved in the event or topic being reported.
- b. News feature stories may incorporate a wider range of sources, including personal stories, expert opinions, and background research, to provide a richer and more nuanced understanding of the subject.

7. Length:

- a. Straight news stories are typically shorter and more to the point, focusing on delivering information efficiently.
- b. News feature stories can be longer and more detailed, allowing for a more thorough exploration of the topic.

By considering these elements, journalists like you can determine whether a story is better suited to a straight news format, or a news feature format based on the goals of the story and the needs of their audience.



What's More

Directions: Carefully read each topic and determine whether it fits the category of straight news story or news feature story. Write STRAIGHT or FEATURE, whichever is applicable.

1. A local election result announcement
2. An update on a natural disaster or severe weather event in the area
3. History and significance of a landmark or site in the community
4. Human-interest story about a family overcoming adversity or achieving a significant milestone
5. In-depth exploration of a cultural festival or event in the area
6. Profile of a remarkable community member or volunteer
7. Report on the effects of pollution on a local waterway
8. School closures due to inclement weather or emergencies
9. The opening of a new school or public market in the community
10. Traffic accidents or road closures affecting commuters



What I Have Learned

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words or phrases from the provided word bank to complete the sentences. Each word or phrase may be used once, more than once, or not at all.

audience	engaging	news feature	sources
brevity	engaging	objective	straight news
concise	inverted pyramid	official	validity

1. The purpose of a _____ story is to deliver the facts concisely and _____.
2. On the other hand, a _____ story aims to provide deeper insights, human interest, and context.
3. Straight news stories typically follow the _____ structure, with the most important information presented at the beginning.
4. In contrast, news feature stories may have a more _____ structure, allowing for storytelling techniques.
5. Straight news stories are written in a neutral, _____ tone, focusing on delivering information without bias.
6. News feature stories may employ a more _____ and _____ writing style.
7. While straight news stories rely primarily on official _____ and quotes, news feature stories may incorporate a wider range of _____.
8. Straight news stories are typically shorter and more to the point, focusing on _____.
9. _____ news stories target readers who are interested in more than just the basic facts.
10. By considering these elements, journalists can determine whether a story is better suited to a _____ news format or a news feature format based on the goals of the story and the needs of their _____.



What I Can Do

Directions: Watch a news broadcast or read a newspaper, then identify five examples of straight news or news feature stories. Write your answers on the table.

Title of Show	Type of News (Straight or Feature)	Topic
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		



Assessment

Directions: Choose the letter of the correct answer.

- ____ 1. What is the primary purpose of straight news stories compared to news feature stories?
 - A. To deliver facts concisely and objectively
 - B. To explore various perspectives on a topic
 - C. To entertain readers with storytelling techniques
 - D. To provide deeper insights, human interest, and context

- ____ 2. Which structure is commonly associated with straight news stories?
 - A. Circular structure
 - B. Narrative structure
 - C. Chronological structure
 - D. Inverted pyramid structure

- ____ 3. What tone and style are typical of straight news stories?
 - A. Neutral and objective
 - B. Creative and engaging
 - C. Biased and opinionated
 - D. Humorous and light-hearted

- ____ 4. How does the depth of coverage differ between straight news stories and news feature stories?
 - A. Both provide the same level of coverage.
 - B. Neither provide coverage; they focus on entertainment.
 - C. Straight news stories delve deeper into the subject matter.
 - D. Feature news stories provide a basic overview of an event or topic.

- ____ 5. Who are straight news stories primarily aimed at engaging?
 - A. Readers interested in fictional stories
 - B. Readers seeking quick and efficient information
 - C. Readers interested in more than just basic facts
 - D. Readers looking for emotional and intellectual engagement

- ____ 6. What is the primary source of information for straight news stories?
 - A. Random guesses and assumptions
 - B. Personal stories and expert opinions
 - C. Internet memes and social media posts
 - D. Official sources and quotes from key figures

- ____ 7. How does the length of news feature stories typically compare to straight news stories?
 - A. Both have the same length.
 - B. News feature stories are shorter but less detailed.
 - C. News feature stories can be longer and more detailed.
 - D. News feature stories are shorter and more to the point.

____ 8. Which of the following best describes the audience engagement in news feature stories?

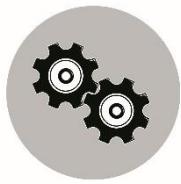
- A. Prioritizing clarity and brevity
- B. Focusing solely on delivering basic facts
- C. Aiming to engage readers emotionally and intellectually
- D. Targeting readers seeking quick and efficient information

____ 9. What distinguishes the use of sources in news feature stories from straight news stories?

- A. Reliance on personal anecdotes and fictional narratives
- B. Primarily utilizing official sources and quotes from key figures
- C. Ignoring sources altogether and relying on the author's opinions
- D. Incorporating a wider range of sources for a richer understanding

____ 10. Which statement accurately describes the length of straight news stories?

- A. They are typically longer and more detailed.
- B. They can vary in length depending on the topic.
- C. They are always shorter than news feature stories.
- D. They prioritize storytelling techniques over factual information.



Additional Activity

Directions: Write a **News Feature Story** or a **Straight News Story**.

1. Choose one of the provided news topics that interests you.
 - a. The annual national science and technology fair
 - b. The school's community garden initiative
 - c. Youth environmental activism
 - d. Cultural diversity celebration
 - e. Student-led community work
 - f. Tuguegarao City's Rizal Park
 - g. Entrepreneurial potential of Tuguegaraoeños
 - h. Technology in Tuguegarao City's public school classrooms
 - i. Tuguegarao City learners' sportsmanship
2. Think of ideas for your straight news or news feature story, considering the elements for each kind.
3. Refer to the provided examples as shown in Articles 1 and 2 in the previous pages.
4. Draft your news feature story independently.
5. After completing your draft, be prepared to share your news feature story with the class or in small groups.



Answer Key

What I Know 1. C 2. D 3. C 4. D 5. D 6. D 7. C 8. D 9. D 10. C Answers Vary	What I Can Do 1. STRAIGHT 2. STRAIGHT 3. FEATURE 4. FEATURE 5. FEATURE 6. FEATURE 7. FEATURE 8. STRAIGHT 9. STRAIGHT 10. STRAIGHT Answers Vary	What's In 1. A 2. D 3. A 4. D 5. D 6. D 7. C 8. D 9. C 10. D Answers Vary
Assessment 1. A 2. D 3. A 4. D 5. D 6. D 7. C 8. D 9. D 10. C Answers Vary	Learned 1. STRAIGHT 2. FEATURE 3. INVERTED PYRAMID 4. NARRATIVE 5. OBJECTIVE 6. CREATIVE; ENGAGING 7. SOURCES 8. DELIVERING 9. FEATURE INFORMATION 10. STRAIGHT; AUDIENCE Answers Vary	Additional Activity 1. STRAIGHT NEWS; 2. FEATURE NEWS; 3. INVERTED PYRAMID 4. NARRATIVE 5. OBJECTIVE 6. CREATIVE; ENGAGING 7. SOURCES 8. DELIVERING 9. FEATURE INFORMATION 10. STRAIGHT; AUDIENCE Answers Vary
Additional Activity 1. STRAIGHT NEWS; 2. FEATURE NEWS; 3. INVERTED PYRAMID 4. NARRATIVE 5. OBJECTIVE 6. CREATIVE; ENGAGING 7. SOURCES 8. DELIVERING 9. FEATURE INFORMATION 10. STRAIGHT; AUDIENCE Answers Vary	Learned 1. STRAIGHT 2. FEATURE 3. INVERTED PYRAMID 4. NARRATIVE 5. OBJECTIVE 6. CREATIVE; ENGAGING 7. SOURCES 8. DELIVERING 9. FEATURE INFORMATION 10. STRAIGHT; AUDIENCE Answers Vary	Learned 1. STRAIGHT 2. FEATURE 3. INVERTED PYRAMID 4. NARRATIVE 5. OBJECTIVE 6. CREATIVE; ENGAGING 7. SOURCES 8. DELIVERING 9. FEATURE INFORMATION 10. STRAIGHT; AUDIENCE Answers Vary

References

“AP Style - Purdue OWL® - Purdue University,” n.d.
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/journalism_and_journalistic_writing/ap_style.html.

Adonis, Meg J. “El Niño Feared Stifling PH Agri Output in '24.” INQUIRER.net, January 31, 2024. <https://business.inquirer.net/443358/el-nino-feared-stifling-ph-agri-output-in-24>.

“Get Your Story Straight: News vs Feature Article.” DINFOS Pavilion. Accessed May 21, 2024. <https://pavilion.dinfos.edu/article/article/2601985/get-your-story-straight-news-vs-feature-article/>.

“Writing Leads - Purdue OWL® - Purdue University,” n.d.
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/journalism_and_journalistic_writing/writing_leads.html.

Roberts, Jasmine. “Types of News Stories.” Writing for Strategic Communication Industries. Accessed May 21, 2024.
<https://ohiostate.pressbooks.pub/stratcommwriting/chapter/types-of-news-stories/>.

For inquiries or feedback, please write or call:

Department of Education – Region II
Schools Division of Tuguegarao City

Dalan na Pagayaya, Regional Government Center, Carig Sur,
Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, 3500

Telephone Numbers: (078) 844-7925; (078) 377-8805
E-mail Address: tuguegarao@deped.gov.ph