

Name: _____

Date: _____

How to Create a Headline Activity

compiled by Antony Caruso from
'Writing with Writers'
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/index.htm>

Now it's time to give your article a headline. Few people have time to read all the text of every article in a newspaper, so they often skim the headlines to see if they might want to read more. Your headline is your chance – with a few well-chosen words in large type – to catch their eye.

A few rules:

- The headline should answer two or more of the key questions;
- It should be accurate and descriptive;
- Don't write exactly the same thing as in your news lead; that's wasting a chance to draw readers in.
- Use the present tense;
- Always use short, active verbs

There's no room to say "**Faculty Members Engage in Discussions**" when you can say "**Teachers Talk.**"

Your headline should summarize straightforwardly what is most newsworthy about it. Don't write "**Student Council Holds Meeting**" when everyone knew they were going to meet; write something specific like "**Council OK's Dance Theme.**"

Activity

Here are some real news articles. Come up with your own headline using the rules above.

Headline: _____

PHOENIX, Ariz. (UPI) - A Lowell Observatory scientist studying Viking spacecraft pictures of Mars has discovered evidence suggesting the existence of an active volcano on the red planet.

Leonard Martin, 50, announced he has found indications of an active steam vent or geyser. He said a steam vent could be a sign of volcanic activity.

Headline:

NORTH BAY, Ont. - A North Bay man was charged with fraud in connection with the alleged passing of more than \$5 million in forged twenty dollar bills.

No date was set for the trial but bail was denied. This

despite an impassioned plea from the man's lawyer who argued that the family of the accused would suffer financial hardship with their sole means of support behind bars.

Headline:

STONE MILLS, Ont. - Canada's largest solar generating station, called First Light, made history on Sept. 26, when at 10:16 a.m. it became the first multi-megawatt solar farm in the country to connect to the electricity system. First Light covers an area large enough to fit nine Rogers Centres and convert enough sun rays each year to power 1,000 homes cleanly.

Construction manager Michael Henderson beams with pride as he gazes out at a black sea of 126,040 solar panels, each resting majestically against 36 hectares of south-sloping terrain.

Headline:

KELOWNA, B.C.

Police took a man off an Air Canada Jazz flight in Kelowna, B.C., Tuesday after a disturbance on the flight from Vancouver to Fort McMurray, Alberta forced the pilot to make an unscheduled stop.

Police say the man stole some beer from the beverage cart on the plane and tried to hide the evidence by flushing the empty can down the toilet.

Airport Communications Officer Jenelle Turpin says the pilot made the decision to land in Kelowna and call in the Mounties.

When the plane landed the RCMP took one man away in handcuffs, while questioning two others before releasing them.

The plane then continued on its flight.