

7
MINUTE
STARTER

4.4 | Caption Writing

Jostens

STEP 1 - LEARN

- You will learn how to identify a good caption and how to write one.

GREAT CAPTIONS

- Don't state **anything** that can be seen in the photo.
- Include names and grades of everyone in the photo. (except in large-group candid shots)
- Answer **as many** of the 5Ws and H as possible.
- Add more background information.

CAPTION CONSTRUCTION

- Give details about what is happening.
- Include information about what went on **just before** the instant captured in the photo.
- Include results of the action occurring in the photo.
- Include quotes if the thoughts of the subjects are important and interesting.

REPORTING IS REQUIRED

- Always get essential information (names, grades, scores, opponents, etc) while at the event.
- Record other observations.
- Interview photo subjects.
- Utilize your resources.
 - Can you work in pairs: one of you photograph while a fellow staffer takes notes?
 - Do you have notes from a related story on the topic?

CAPTURING QUOTES

- Direct quotes add depth and perspective.
- Direct quotes are preferred over indirect quotes.
 - **Direct quote:** “The Homecoming bonfire is one of my favorite events of the year,” said Jonie Stevens (11), “It’s so fun to hang out with friends on a cool fall night.”
 - **Indirect quote:** Jonie Stevens says the homecoming bonfire is one of her favorite events of the year.
- Not every caption requires a quote but they should be used as often as possible.

SEALED LIPS

- Ask open-ended follow-up questions.
- Dig deeper
- Focus on your subject
- Appear interested

SEALED LIPS

- Open ended questions
 - Describe what it was like when...
 - How did you feel when...
 - Why did you...
 - What were you thinking when...

QUOTE CAPTION

Provides information through the words of the subject in the photo.

ON A HIGH NOTE

"To thrive in orchestra, I plan on continuing to practice my viola in 8th grade and throughout my high school years."

LIVING BY THE NUMBERS

WHILE NUMBERS MAY BE AN INFINITE SET, WHEN THEY ARE PAIRED WITH THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE THEY OFFER ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE A LASTING IMPACT IN LIFE.

60+ [Caption text]

7 [Caption text]

Count in the Moment

These students are sharing their unique insights on how they want to be successful in music.

1. To be successful in music, you need to practice every day.
2. To be successful in music, you need to be a team player.
3. To be successful in music, you need to be a hard worker.
4. To be successful in music, you need to be a good listener.
5. To be successful in music, you need to be a good communicator.
6. To be successful in music, you need to be a good leader.

CLOSING THE GAP

[Caption text]

7 [Caption text]

6 [Caption text]

7 MINUTE STARTER

Holmes Middle School [MI]



COLLECTIVE CAPTION

Two parts: 1: Overall description. 2: ID and brief description of each photo.

1. Shawn Trejo examines the vertebrae while dangling it above his head so he can view it as a whole.
2. Holding a bone, Cierra Wran and Han Bertsch prepare for the practicum.
3. Natasha Sherwood puts a skull on her head as her friend Hailey Yocham jokingly names the bones in Sherwood's head.

BONE NIGHT
THE HUMAN BODY HEAD + TOE
Students in this anatomy class enjoy the challenge of preparing for the big bone practice. Meghan Cleary said, "The practice was a little nerve-racking at first, but once we got into it, it was really fun." Cierra Wran said, "It was very interesting, like the bones."

RAIN LOVIN'
GOLF COURSE BOOGIE BOARDING
"I surfed on the golf course because there weren't waves at the beach so why not get a few friends and surf a golf course? Sully, I got sick from it!"

COMEDY SPORTS
MAKING SPORTS DO A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL
"I did not know what to expect going to my first comedy sports match, but I was very surprised at how funny our team players can be on the spot!"

SPIRIT WEEK
WHEN IT'S OKAY TO LOOK ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS
With a week filled with Spirit's Day, The Day Tuesday, Spirit Week, and Friday, students were able to gather their best spirit attire. Cierra Bertsch said, "I went to school to be a cheerleader and I ended up spending \$50.00 but I was well worth it." Students went to great lengths to show their spirit. They painted their faces, wore signs, brought props, and had their own and dressed to the 9's. Cierra Bertsch said, "Having a tradition, I don't know what to expect for spirit week but I was really surprised at how many people dressed up and I was really fun to take part in it." Cierra Bertsch said, "Spirit Week was the best day because my friends had to be a Disney princess when I'm a cheerleader."



Tesoro High School [CA]



SUMMARY CAPTION

Highlights the most important of the five Ws and H.

A Winter Wonderland

There's a special feeling that comes with the first snowfall. It's a magical moment that brings joy and excitement to everyone who witnesses it. The snowflakes are like tiny angels, dancing through the air and landing softly on the ground. It's a beautiful sight that makes you want to go outside and play in the snow. The snow is like a blanket, covering everything in a soft, white layer. It's a wonderful feeling that makes you want to go outside and play in the snow. The snow is like a blanket, covering everything in a soft, white layer. It's a wonderful feeling that makes you want to go outside and play in the snow.

LET ME TAKE A SELFIE
In Greer, Arizona Jackson Maahs, Nicholas Gregory and Kyle Grommes visit Sunrise Ski Resort to snowboard over the break.

Over the two week winter break, **Brendy Brown** took a trip with his friends to Phoenix, Arizona. "We all had a great time, this winter was perfect. We were having such fun and we were practicing in the middle of winter. We had a lot of laughs and a lot of fun." **Jeffrey Landa** said, who was on the trip with Brown.

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Kirkwood High School [MO]

Jestens

EXPANDED CAPTION

Highlights the most important of the five Ws and H plus additional details.

Stress to be the Best

The biggest game was not a game because of the score, but because of the pressure. The team was nervous, but Coach Hammond kept them calm. "We need to stay focused and play hard," he said. "We can't let our nerves get the best of us."

Favorite Reflections

"The best part of the game was when we all worked together. We knew we had to win, and we did. It was a great feeling. We got so much better at bonding."

IN THE COACH'S CORNER

During the Carrollton game, sophomore Taylor Todd listens intently to advice from Coach Hammond. According to Todd, having Coach Hammond really helped the way they played their game. "Getting different ways of learning the game provided new ways for improvement. As a team, we got so much better at bonding" - Taylor Todd, 10.

Pumped up and Ready

The team was pumped up and ready for the game. They had a great strategy and were confident they could win. "We were all excited and ready to go," said Taylor Todd. "We knew we had a chance to win, and we were going to take it."

New Court, Same Game

The team played on a new court, but the game was the same. They had to adjust to the new court, but they did it. "It was a challenge, but we were able to adapt. We were all focused and played hard."

Born to Ball

The team was born to ball. They had a great strategy and were confident they could win. "We were all excited and ready to go," said Taylor Todd. "We knew we had a chance to win, and we were going to take it."

7 MINUTE STARTER

Whitewater High School [GA]



NO KIDDING!

- Joke captions are **not** tolerated.
- **At worst**, they can be considered libel.
- **At best**, they may offend.

STEP 2 - PRACTICE

- On the next slide, read about the three parts of an expanded caption.
- As a class, work together to construct a caption for the photo on the next slide using *Handout 4.4a - 1, 2, 3 Captions*.
- Independently, write a caption for the next photo. Share your captions as a class.
- Write a caption for a photo you took this week and make sure it's high quality.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

- Expanded captions have three or four parts.
 - A **lead-in**.
 - Be clever. Use rhyming, play-on-words or alliteration.
 - An **informational first sentence** in present tense.
 - Names, grades, factual information about the 5Ws and H.
 - A **descriptive second sentence** in past tense.
 - Include background information that cannot be seen in the photo. Information like what happened before the photo, right after the photo, or what happened as a result of the action in the photo.
 - An **optional quote** as a last sentence.



WRITE A CAPTION:

- **Who:** Seniors Maria Gonzales, Jennifer Williams
- **What:** Taking pictures of themselves
- **When:** After Friday, October 15 pep rally
- **Where:** In the school parking lot
- **Why:** Because they were named homecoming maids, elected by popular vote of the student body
- **Describe the best memories of the event:** “I was thrilled when Maria was named one of the maids and I never even heard them announce my name. Then Maria screamed and pointed at me. We took our pic together to send to our grandparents and post on Facebook.”
- **Tell us something we can't see from the photo:** Maria and Jennifer have been best friends since kindergarten.

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Jesters



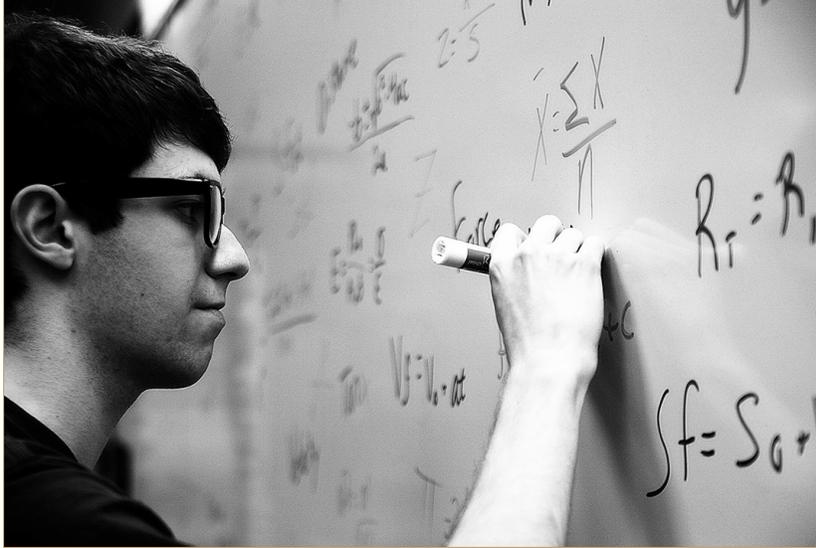
WRITE A CAPTION:

- **Who:** An English teacher, Mrs. Smith, her class, and a plastic raven named Edgar.
- **What:** Reading Edgar Allen Poe's *The Raven* in the dark while dressed Halloween costumes.
- **When:** Halloween Day
- **Where:** Mrs. Smith's classroom
- **Why:** Part of the literature unit in English 4.
- **Describe the best memories of the event:** "With the lights turned off and the flashlights illuminating the books, an eerie atmosphere surrounds the students, dressed in their favorite Halloween costumes. I love it." –Becca Guevera
- **Tell us something we can't see from the photo:** This is an annual event in Mrs. Smith's class. Each year she dresses up and reads to the class with Edgar the raven.

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Horizon High School [AZ]

Jesters



- Write a caption for one of the photos you took this week.
- Alternatively, write a caption for the photo on this slide, making up the 5Ws and H.

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Horizon High School [AZ]

Jostens

STEP 3 - USE

- You will be using your caption-writing skills on every page of your book, so keep practicing!
- Tomorrow we will be using the photos and clip files from earlier in this week. Be sure your work is done.