

## Lesson Plan – Caption Writing

“Looking at a picture without a caption is like watching TV with the sound turned off.”

- Robert J. Courtemanche, CJE

A photograph is worth a thousand words. This message can be problematic because the viewers may come up with a thousand different messages. Therefore it is important to write strong photo captions so that the intended message comes through.

### Overview

Students will learn about what makes a great caption and will learn about the 5W's and H of journalism writing. Suggested time allowance is 40 minutes.

### Objectives

Students will:

- Examine a picture for details.
- Write questions they need answered about the picture.
- Create captions appropriate for a picture.
- Know what information they need in order to create a caption.
- Write more captions appropriate for other pictures.

### Procedures

#### Activity 1

- Pull up Newseum.org today's front pages and ask students what they notice first. Most will say the pictures.
- Next, project a photo that includes people but has caption. Ask students what they would like to know about the picture.

#### Activity 2

- Using magazines or newspapers ask students to find five photographs and identify and label the parts (5Ws and H) of the caption.

### Assessment

Create a caption for a photograph, using the “5Ws and H” to identify people and explain the photo without telling the obvious.

### Materials

- Paper
- Pens or pencils
- Newspapers and magazines with examples of pictures and captions