

Reporter's Formula

TEKS 6.5B: *The student will demonstrate effective communication skills that reflect such demands as interviewing, reporting, requesting, and providing information.*

Skill focus: questioning, prewriting, leads, revision, quotations, purposeful composing, presenting

Explanation. Reporter's formula is a prewriting technique based on the standard journalistic approach to gathering information – who? what? where? when? where? why? and how?

Implementation.

1. Distribute three 5-by-8-inch index cards to each student.
2. Divide students into pairs making sure to pair students who they know the least about or they want to know better.
3. Fold two cards in half and number each section 1, 2, 3, 4. The last card is numbered "5".
4. In section 1, students are to create five questions they want to ask their partner based on the 5 journalistic questions.
5. Students ask each other their questions and record answers in section 2.
6. After reading answers, students should circle the answer that they liked best, that they want to know more about, or that surprises them. In section 3 they should create four to six more questions that focus on the circled answer.
7. In section four, students record their partner's answers. Writers should observe and document their partner's exact words and body language.
8. Students use the final card to write a draft based on the answers. They should try to "hook" the reader with a good lead and use direct quotes.
9. Students read their draft to their partner, who confirms or corrects the points.
10. Students revise, title, and put their name on the card.
11. Invite several students to read aloud. Students give their finished cards to their partner.

Originally adapted from *Seeking Diversity* by Linda Rief

Taken from *Act's of Teaching: How to Teach Writing* (Carroll and Wilson 1993)