

COURSE OVERVIEW

Here is the NEWS



A course in News writing prepared by the Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre as an introduction to the Brisbane Show Camp.



Online Course in News Writing

Here is the News is an introductory course in writing news stories, which has been developed for students in upper primary classes.

The course focuses on the *Short News Story* style of writing which is the basic style of news journalism and was the common style of writing for printed newspapers.

Students will develop skills in news story planning and research, writing and editing.

The course is presented in an online format on The Learning Place and includes quizzes and assignments. Due dates for all assessment pieces will be advertised in the course and by email.

Successful completion of the course is a prerequisite for students wishing to be considered for selection to attend the Brisbane Show Camp, BUT completion of the course does NOT automatically guarantee attendance at the camp.

2022 Online Course Overview

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sample short news stories * Milestones in news media – A timeline of the development of news media from the earliest known news reports to the present. * Printed news and Online news – A comparison of the differences between news stories published in a printed newspaper and stories written for online publication.
Module 1	What makes a story news? – What is meant by ‘newsworthy’?
Module 2	What is the structure or shape of a short news story? – All styles (genres) of writing have unique characteristics. What are the unique characteristics of a news story?
Module 3	What do we mean by style? – When a number of stories written by different people are published in a single publication, it is important that they all read the same way. Standard use of language, spelling and punctuation is important.
Module 4	Different angles – The angle of a news story refers to the perspective from which it has been written. Is it a concise statement of facts? Does it reflect the impact on the people involved? Does it provide safety or consumer advice?
Module 5	Accuracy, accuracy, accuracy – Newspaper stories MUST be accurate. Hearsay and opinions should never be reported without proof. Facts must be checked.
Module 6	Can I ask a few questions? – Planning and conducting interviews – some do’s and don’ts.
Module 7	Planning the news story – Using planning tools to assist you with news story writing.
Module 8	Check, then re-check – Editing is the most important aspect of the writing process. Do you have accurate facts, correct titles, names and places, correct structure and style, correct language, spelling and punctuation?
Module 9	You are the journalist – A practical exercise in writing a news story from resources that are provided for you. You will need to complete a planning matrix and write a short news story.
Module 10	Show Camp introduction (<i>For students selected to attend the camp</i>).



frequently asked QUESTIONS

Is this course only for students who want to go to Show Camp?

No. The course is available to all year six students enrolled in a Queensland State School who are interested in news writing. It is targeted towards higher achievers in English.

How much does the course cost?

There is no cost to students or schools.

How do students access the course?

The course is presented through The Learning Place. Students will need to access with their EQ login [eg. jsmith1].

To enrol in the course, schools must nominate all students with the Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre (BUEEC). Information relating to the nomination process can be obtained from the BM at BUEEC by phone or email (contact details below). The Centre will then organise the enrolments with The Learning Place.

When does the course commence?

The first introductory modules will be available from Monday 14 February. Additional modules will be released progressively throughout the duration of the course from 28 February. The introductory modules will give students an opportunity to become familiar with access to The Learning Place before the main part of the work commences.

Ideally, students should have nominated for enrolment by Friday 25 February but late enrolments will be accepted.

How much time will the course involve?

We anticipate approximately half an hour each week. Some modules will take more than half an hour, but when the full schedule is published online you will see that more than one week has been allocated for these modules.

When does the course end?

The course runs until a written news story assignment is due to be submitted, towards the end of Term 2.

Phone: 0472870898

Email: onlinewriters@brisbaneurbaneec.eq.edu.au



How might the Ekka and Show Camp be affected?

The RNA is well advanced in planning for an Ekka this year from 6–14 August after two years when Covid caused cancellations – in 2021 just one week before the Show was due to commence.

There is no way of predicting what might happen between now and August and what controls or restrictions could be put in place, but we are conducting the online writers course and preparing for a Show Camp this year. This will be the 30th year of the publication of the Ekka Courier, the newspaper written by the students attending the Camp.

The operation of the camp will be guided by Government directives – from both Health and Education Departments. This may mean a Show Camp with possibly a reduced number of students. We will provide updated information when it is available.



There is a further module which will be available immediately after the June/July vacation which is designed for students selected to attend the Show Camp to prepare them for the work that will be expected of them.

Non-selected students do not need to complete this module.

For Show Campers, the course finishes at the end of the camp on Friday 12 August.

Do students need to complete assessment tasks?

There will be a number of quizzes and assignments. The quizzes are online and students will receive instant feedback when they have completed each quiz. Assignments will be marked by BUEEC teachers.

All assessment tasks must be completed by students wanting to be considered for selection to attend the Show Camp.

Other students are encouraged to complete the assessment tasks.

Can students do the work at school or must it be done at home?

The work can be done either at home or at school. If assessments and quizzes are done at school, the students should work independently.

Can students withdraw from the course before it ends?

Students are able to withdraw from the course. Please advise the BM at BUEEC if students indicate that they have withdrawn, so that we can attempt to remove them from mailing lists relating to the course.

As a teacher, can I see what the students are doing?

We recommend that you submit a request for enrolment in the course in your name then you will have full access to the whole course.

Does the teacher need to mark the assessment tasks?

All marking of written assignments will be undertaken by BUEEC teachers.

Quizzes are automatically marked online through The Learning Place.

Can the teacher access the student assessment results?

Students should print the feedback response after they have completed each quiz and provide the copy to their teacher.

Students receive feedback for the written assignments from BUEEC. Class teachers should ask the students for a copy of that feedback.

How are students selected to attend Show Camp?

Students are selected based on the recommendation from the school and their achievement in the online course. They will also need to provide a personal statement that outlines their involvement in school activities, their interest in journalism and media, and how they believe their attendance will benefit both themselves and their school.

Prepared as part of the 'Here is the News' online learning course in news writing by the Brisbane Urban Environmental Education Centre. Copyright: Queensland Government, Department of Education.