

Captions Help Images Tell a Story

<p>Did I include the five W's and H: Who, What, Where, When and Why and How.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Who is that? Why is this picture in the paper? * What's going on? * When and where was this? * Why does he/she/it/they look that way? * How did this occur? 	
<p>Did I identify the main people in the photograph? (Identify the people from left to right and by a physical description whenever possible. A physical description can be of their clothing or expression.)</p>	
<p>Did I write the caption as if I was telling a family member a story?</p>	
<p>Did I use descriptive words? Descriptions are very helpful for viewer. (The person dressed "in black," "holding the water hose," or "standing to the left of the sofa, center" are helpful identifying factors.)</p>	
<p>Did I point out what the reader might miss at first?</p>	
<p>Did I make sure my facts are correct?</p>	
<p>Did I make sure my spelling is correct?</p>	
<p>Did I use the present tense whenever possible. This will create a sense of immediacy and impact.</p>	
<p>Did I use commas to set off directions from the captions to the picture? "Kachira Irby, above," or "Kennetra Irby, upper left..."</p>	
<p>Did I allow for longer captions when more information will help the reader/viewer understand the story and situation?</p>	
<p>Did I avoid using terms like "is shown, is pictured, and looks on."</p>	
<p>Did I avoid making judgments? ("An unhappy citizen watches the protest..." Can you be sure that he is unhappy? Or is he hurting?.?)</p>	
<p>Did I avoid <i>clichés</i>? (a phrase, expression, or idea that has been overused to the point of losing its novelty such as "back in the day" or "my bad?"</p>	
<p>Did I avoid stating what is obvious in the picture? (Dennis Rodman smiles as he falls on his face.)</p>	

<p>Do my images tell a story and have a beginning, middle and end?</p>	
<p>Does my first image should capture the mood/tone of the story?</p>	
<p>Does my first image have a caption that contains information that tells people what the story is about, like an introduction to an essay?</p>	
<p>Do the following images have pictures of people or objects that play a central role in the story?</p>	
<p>Does the second image have a caption that contains a summary of the story that gives your readers the importance of the story?</p>	
<p>Do the images and captions that follow provide additional information that adds to what is in the picture.... not describing the obvious?</p>	
<p>Did I use close ups, wide-angle shots of people interacting with each other or with objects?</p>	
<p>Does the last image tie the story together and make the readers want to read the article?</p>	

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