Writing A Feature Story Exercise: Hiker

**Writing a Feature Story**

Feature Writing is different from News Writing because it allows for a greater amount of detail and description. The three major kinds of descriptions that should be contained in a feature story are description of actions, descriptions of people, and description of places. Feature stories generally have four parts: a lead, an engine paragraph, a body, and an ending. Each need special handling by the writer

**Remember:**

* *How are you going to organize the facts?* Even though this is not a news story and you don't have to use the inverted pyramid, stop a minute and think about how the facts should be organized. Remember to answer the questions that people want to know while keeping the flow of the story entertaining.
* *What information are you going to include in your story?*Part of being a media writer is making the tough call of what to include. A writer must figure out what are the necessary pieces of important information that your consumers need. make sure you respect the word count.
* *Plan your writing.*You are the conductor of the story and the information flows through you. If you are the conductor of an orchestra and you want them to play a song that has been played for centuries, how do you make it fresh? Well, it all has to do with how you organize the melody (for us that means the facts).

**Directions:**  Write a feature story condensing all of the information in the notes below into a **250-300 word** article for the school's newspaper. The information is provided in bullet points. You are to write in clear concise sentences and paragraphs using AP Style and correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. **Note:**There are several examples in the Module associated with this assignment (see Module examples).

* DO NOT ADD TO THE FACTS. Use the information provided, BUT DO NOT use the exact wording. It is your job to rewrite the information you have so that is it BETTER WRITTEN than the exercise material.
* DO NOT MAKE UP QUOTES. Use the quotes that are provided.
* INCLUDE direct and indirect (paraphrased) quotes.
* CHECK AP Style for quotes, attributions, numbers, cities and states, ages, measurements, etc.
* CHECK grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
* Rubric: [Ready for Publication 100 (edited).pdf](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/30248/files/3355063/download?wrap=1)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**HIKER**

 A local high school teacher, Will Henderson, was lost for 4 days last week while hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Henderson had been hiking along the Appalachian Trail and had gotten off the trail near a place known as Gregory Bald. After a couple of hours of walking off the trail, Henderson tried to cross a stream when he slipped and broke his leg.

Henderson is an experienced hiker. He is a member of the National Hiking Association. He had plenty of food with him at the time. He had been hiking for about 10 days before the accident. He had started in Georgia and was in Tennessee at the time of the accident.

After his fall, Henderson used some sticks and string to make a splint for his leg. He then began 4 days of crawling, pushing his 40-pound hiking pack in front of him. He crawled through a lot of thick underbrush. Finally, he made it back to the main part of the Appalachian Trail and was soon found by two other hikers.

The Appalachian Trail is nearly 3,000 miles long, stretching from Georgia to Maine. It is one of the most popular hiking trails in the country.

Henderson teaches biology at Jefferson High School. He is 39 and has been hiking since he was a boy of 10.

Henderson was hospitalized for several days in Knoxville, during which time a number of stories were written about his ordeal. Now he is back home, recuperating in a local hospital, and your newspaper sends you to interview him. Here’s some of what he tells you:

“I never doubted that I would be found. I got discouraged sometimes, but I figured that I had plenty of food and thought that if I could get back to a trail—particularly the main Appalachian Trail because it’s so busy—somebody would come along before long.”

“I’ll tell you though, I sure was happy when I heard those first footsteps coming up behind me. Those guys thought I was some kind of animal at first. I guess I looked pretty rough. They kind of hesitated in approaching me, but when I said, ‘Help’ a couple of times, they came running.”

“One of the guys stayed with me while the other went for help. They kept telling me not to go to sleep, and I didn’t. I was so happy then that I probably couldn’t have, even if I had wanted to. I’ll never forget the feeling I had when they found me, not if I live to be a hundred. Those guys are going to get mentioned in my will.”

“The hardest thing about being lost was thinking that other people might be worrying about me. I was supposed to meet some friends in Gatlinburg a couple of days after I got lost. As it turned out, they weren’t worried but said if I had been gone another day, they would have contacted the park rangers and started a search.”

“After a day or so of crawling, I had to discard most of my clothes and most of the other things in my pack. They had gotten too wet and heavy for me to push. Of course, I kept all of the food I had. It was mostly dry stuff—crackers, fruit, peanut butter, things like that.”

“The mountain foliage was like a jungle. There had been a lot of rain up there this year, and it was really thick. If I had stayed where I was when I fell, I probably would still be there. At least, that’s what one of the park rangers said. I think I knew that instinctively when I fell, so I never thought about staying put. I knew that I had better get somewhere where people could find me.”

“Besides food, I did manage to keep a few small things with me. I had several pictures of my wife and two little girls. I looked at them a lot, especially when I got discouraged. I would spend a little time looking at those pictures, and then I would crawl a little bit more.”

“I broke the first rule of hiking, of course. I hiked alone. If you’re on the Appalachian Trail, it doesn’t matter because you’re not really alone. There are so many people on that trail. But when you get off the beaten track—that’s when you need to be with somebody. I learned my lesson about that. My goal is still to hike the entire trail, but I guess I’ll have to wait until I get my leg in shape.”