

1. Definition:

A feature article is an article written to give more depth to the news. Written by an expert, it gives background information on a newsworthy topic as well as the writer's personal slant or experience.

2. Purpose and Role of Writer:

to inform and entertain, and sometimes to persuade

3. Generic Features:

a) Structure and Organisation

- headline should be attention grabbing e.g. *Schoolies Rules*
- subheading e.g. *Ask any school leaver. Schoolies Week ...*
- byline e.g. *Sebastian Penn*
- column format
- introduction should hook readers and establish a point of view through direct statement or example or hypothetical question e.g. *Is that a rite or a right?*
- narrative rather than inverted pyramid structure.

b) Language

- creative and colourful e.g. *an extravagant pagan ritual*
- use of anecdotes or background information e.g. *Melissa's story*
- personal referents may be used
- figurative language may be used e.g. *like new offspring...adopted*
- writer creates relationship with reader through an individual writing style
- expansive not economical in length.

c) Grammar

- use of first person is acceptable
- variety of long and short sentences
- present tense e.g. *alcohol abuse is more common....*

catchy headline. using assonance

subheading provides angle or point of view: byline

hypothetical question to hook readers and angle/point of view

historical background

Schoolies Rules

Ask any school leaver. Schoolies Week has become a modern rite of passage. Sebastian Penn reports.

Is that a rite or a right? Certainly school leavers seem to believe that they deserve an all-out celebration at the end of twelve or thirteen years of schooling. So don't expect this mega indulgent festival to disappear in the near future.

Because it's become an institution, Schoolies has become more regimented and better controlled than in its early years. There is a large police presence, as well as council, community groups and volunteers who organise alcohol-free activities on the beach, day and night. And there have even been some positive spin offs.

When Schoolies began in the 1980s, there was little organisation or support for teenagers. This led a priest from the Oblate Order, Paul Costello, to found Rosies Youth Mission, to support young people. Now Rosies has branched out into other areas, including support for the homeless.

There's also a website now that provides information on all aspects of Schoolies Week. Here Schoolies are made aware of the consequences of underage drinking and the other pitfalls of post-school partying.

One survey conducted after the celebration suggests that alcohol abuse is more common among males than females, with an average of 52.3% of males admitting to being drunk every day of the Schoolies Week. Figures relating to casual sexual partners and drug abuse are much more conservative.

Yet, a number of girls interviewed after Schoolies Week admitted to being the victims of sexual assault. Melissa (not her real name) said: "I hooked up with Nathan and went back to his place. He forced himself on me, but he was pretty wasted, so I pushed him out of the way and ran home." Not all girls escaped as easily as Melissa. Now that information is readily available how to avoid both non consensual sex and drink spiking, incidents like these should be less common.

So, even if Schoolies seems like an extravagant pagan ritual to parents and the older generation, every year it becomes more of a permanent fixture. And now that the term "Schoolies" has recently been legitimised by making its way into the Oxford English Dictionary, there is certainly no turning back.

use of statistics

anecdotal evidence

conclusion links to introduction and angle of the article