

10 Steps to Writing a Journalistic Profile

1. Think about what is most important.

Ask yourself what you want the reader to remember about this article. It often helps to write a single sentence explaining what you think is the most important information there is about the person you are writing about.

2. Create an outline.

Include what information you found that you would like to include in the introduction, in the body of the article, and in the conclusion.

3. Prepare the introduction.

Begin your article with a brief introduction. This is much like introducing someone to a person they don't know. Be brief, but explain why the person you are writing about is interesting. Why should the reader keep reading your article?

4. The body.

For this article we will divide the body of our article into two paragraphs: **1. The Life of Alice Allison Dunnigan**, and **2. The Legacy of Alice Allison Dunnigan**. The first paragraph should contain the facts of her life, where she was born, her childhood, her career, her family. The second paragraph should explain her legacy, what did Dunnigan accomplish, what awards did she win, how is she remembered.

5. Focus on what's most interesting.

Tell the readers what the interesting parts of the subject's life were instead of simply writing the information in a list. Remember, you're writing an article, not a report. Include some of the cool stuff in there too.

6. Show, don't tell.

Don't just include the facts, describe what happened to the reader.

7. Don't over-rely on quotes.

A few quotes from the subject make an article interesting and give the reader a better idea of who the subject is, but too many quotes often make the story confusing. Make sure the quotes are not over a sentence long, and don't use more than one quote per paragraph.

8. The Conclusion.

The last paragraph of the article should remind the reader what the most important information was. Remember the sentence you created at the start of this process? Explain that to the reader in the conclusion.

9. Proofread, Proofread, Proofread.

Once you've finished writing, find a quiet spot and read your article again, but read it out loud to yourself. Does it make sense? Does it sound like you speaking? Locate places in your article where you have difficulty, and focus on rewording each of those sections until they flow better.

10. Trade with a Classmate.

Finally, share your article with a classmate who has also finished proofreading their work. Provide your classmate with constructive notes on how they could improve their article. Once you receive your classmates notes on your article, make any updates necessary.