

Name: _____ Date: _____

You Write It

Turning an Interview Into an Article

Directions: Follow the steps below to turn our interview with Bella Rossborough into an article.

1 The headline "How I Got Plastic Bags Banned" gives you a clue about the central idea of the interview and what the central idea of your article should be. **Write the central idea, in your own words, as a complete sentence.**

2 Rewrite each question-and-answer pair on the lines below. Write from the third-person point of view (using *he*, *she*, or *they* to refer to people—never *I* or *we*). Paraphrase—that is, rewrite in your own words—what Bella says. We did the first pair for you.

Q-and-A No. 1:

Plastic bags are harmful because after they are thrown away, they can escape into our environment and cause problems. The bags can end up in our oceans where they can hurt animals by wrapping around the animals' mouths or bodies and making it hard for them to breathe or move. An animal can also mistake a plastic bag for food and eat it, which can make the animal sick.

Q-and-A No. 2:

Q-and-A No. 3:

Q-and-A No. 4:

Q-and-A No. 5:

Q-and-A No. 6:

3 Choose two sentences that Bella said in the interview to use as direct quotes in your article.
A direct quote is another person's exact words.

When you include direct quotes in your article, you must put them in quotation marks, and you must make clear who is saying them. Here are two examples of how to do that:

1. "I was going to mail it to the Board of Selectmen—a group of officials who make decisions about how our town is run," explains Bella. "But my teacher encouraged me to present my ideas in person."
2. Bella says, "You don't have to look very hard to find a plastic bag blowing around on the ground, stuck in a tree, or floating in the water."

Direct Quote 1: _____

Direct Quote 2: _____

4 Now it's time to put it all together. Write your three-paragraph article on a separate sheet of paper or type it up, following the guidelines below.

Opening Paragraph:

- Your first sentence should be a hook—that is, it should grab the reader's attention. One option is to state something that is surprising, interesting, or moving. What detail did you find most interesting from the interview?
- Let readers know what the article is going to be about. In other words, state the central idea of the article.

Body Paragraph:

- Explain to your readers why plastic bags are a problem and how Bella was able to get them banned in her town, using information from the six question-and-answer pairs you summarized in Step 2.
- Summarize the most important ideas presented in the interview. Each idea you include should support the central idea that you wrote in Step 1.
- Don't forget to include the direct quotes you chose in Step 3.

Conclusion:

- Wrap it all up. End your article with a strong sentence that will give your readers something to think about. One option is to end with a quote. Another is to refer to your hook from the opening paragraph.

WRITING TIPS!

- Use transition words and phrases so your ideas flow smoothly from one to the next.
- Vary the lengths and structures of your sentences to keep your writing lively.
- Read your first draft carefully. Is there anything you could express more clearly or in a more interesting way? Incorporate any changes into your second draft. Proofread your second draft, checking for mistakes in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

"You Write It" Sample Article

The article is written from the third-person point of view: It's not Hunter telling the story, it's a narrator.

Heroic Rescue on the Mountainside

Hunter Nelson, 17, watched helplessly as his friend Danny Riat fell silently through the air. He saw Danny land so hard that his shoes fell off. Then Hunter leaped into action, turning what could have been a tale of tragedy into the story of a heroic rescue.

The first sentence hooks the reader's attention by describing a dramatic moment.

The first three paragraphs summarize the first, second, and third question-and-answer pairs in the interview.

The two friends had been hiking to a beautiful camping spot near Archer Mountain in Washington State. As they made their way through the woods, the trail got steeper and steeper, until it was nearly vertical. Danny was 70 feet above Hunter when Hunter heard rocks falling. He looked up and saw Danny fly past him.

This sentence states the main idea. It tells readers they are going to read about Hunter rescuing Danny.

"He didn't make any noise as he fell, so it felt unreal, like I was in a dream," says Hunter. When Danny landed, he was knocked unconscious. "I was sure he was dead," says Hunter.

Here are direct quotes from the interview.

Starting here, each paragraph summarizes one of the question-and-answer pairs from the interview.

A wave of adrenaline swept through Hunter as he rushed to reach his fallen friend. Hunter never felt any fear; he just knew he had to get to Danny. It took Hunter only one or two minutes to scramble down the cliff that had taken them 45 minutes to climb up.

When he reached Danny, Hunter's survival training kicked in. He checked Danny's ears and nose for blood, then made sure Danny wasn't paralyzed. Then Hunter called 911. As they waited for help to arrive, Hunter kept Danny warm by wrapping him in camping gear and blew a whistle to guide the 50 rescuers who were searching for them. Later, he lit a signal fire and waved a torch in the air.

After five hours, a Coast Guard helicopter reached Hunter and Danny. The rescuer and Hunter got Danny into a basket and lifted him up into the helicopter. Once Danny was safely on board, Hunter and the rescuer were lifted into the helicopter as well.

Hunter says that the experience on the mountain has changed him. It has made him want to help people, and he is thinking about a career in search and rescue. "I knew what to do," says Hunter, "and it helped save Danny's life."

Here's another direct quote. The writer uses it to end the article on a thought-provoking note.

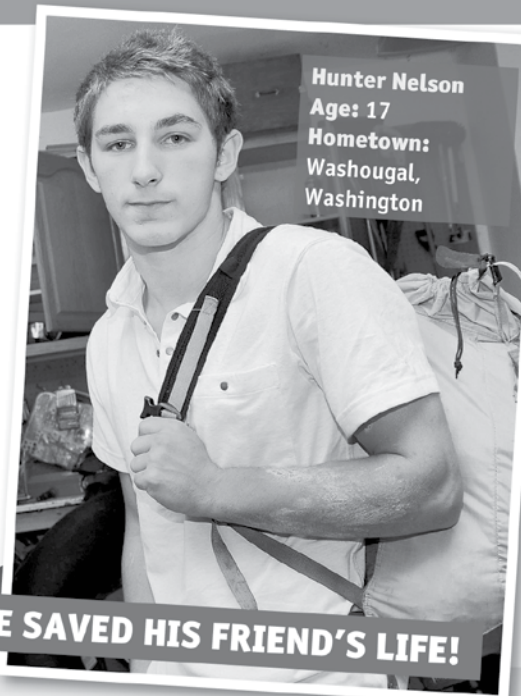
Main Idea

You Write It

We did the interview. We wrote the headline. *You* write the article.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read our interview with Hunter Nelson. **2.** Think about the headline we wrote. That will tell you what the main idea of your article should be. **3.** Write an article about Hunter in your own words. Use quotes from the interview, and make sure you stay focused on the main idea. Your article should be 250 to 500 words.



The Headline

Heroic Rescue on the Mountainside

The Interview

Scope: You and your friend Danny Riat had a scary experience on your hiking trip. What was your plan?

Hunter: We were going to camp at this place near Archer Mountain in Washington State with beautiful bluffs, waterfalls, and creeks. As we traveled through the woods, it got steeper and steeper. It was nearly vertical.

Scope: What happened then?

Hunter: Danny was 70 feet above me. I heard rocks falling, looked up, and saw him fly over me. He didn't make any noise as he fell, so it felt unreal, like I was in a dream. I watched him fall and land so hard his shoes fell off. He was knocked out. I was sure he was dead.

Scope: You must have been incredibly frightened.

Hunter: I felt this rush of adrenaline and thought, "I have to get down there!" I never felt fear. We had spent 45 minutes climbing that cliff, and it took me one minute, maybe two, to get down to him.

Scope: What did you do when you reached him?

Hunter: I checked his ears and nose for blood, and checked his extremities to make sure he wasn't paralyzed. Then I called 911. While we waited for rescue, I wrapped him in camping gear to keep him warm. There were 50 people looking for us. I blew a whistle to show where we were. As it got dark, I started a signal fire and waved a torch in the air.

Scope: Your survival training kicked in. How did they get you out of there?

Hunter: After five hours, a Coast Guard helicopter came. We got Danny on a backboard and carried him to a basket that they lifted up first. Then they pulled up the rescuer and me.

Scope: Did this experience change you?

Hunter: Yes. It makes me think about what's important. It makes me want to help people. After this, I've thought about a career in search and rescue. I knew what to do, and it helped save Danny's life.

Now you write the article!

**YOU WRITE IT
CONTEST**

Send your article to the **You Write It Contest**. Five winning stories will be published in *Scope Online*. See page 2 for details.

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Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

You Write It Contest

Read our interview with Bella Rossborough. Choose a central idea and write a three-paragraph article about Bella in your own words. Be sure to use quotes from our interview. Three winners will each get a \$25 Visa gift card.

Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ a clear central idea and supporting evidence
- ⇒ use of quotations
- ⇒ organization
- ⇒ grammar

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Include this sheet with your typed short story and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
Or mail to: You Write It Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 15, 2018!