

Name: _____ Date: _____

Preparing to Write: The Amazing Turtle Rescue

Read the play *Far From Home*. Then follow the directions in the boxes below to help you gather the details you will use in your response to the writing prompt on page 16:

Imagine that you are a journalist. Write a news article or create a podcast about Elmar's rescue and release. Incorporate quotes from characters in the play.

One-sentence summary

Write a sentence about what happened with Elmar and BRIEFLY explain why it is important.

People

Who were the people involved in the event? List their names and brief descriptions of their roles.

Places

What places play an important part in this story? List them along with short notes about their roles.

Dates

What are the key dates to report? List them and briefly note why each is important. (The play does not give specific dates, so you will need to make them up—just be sure they make sense with the timeline of events in the play.)

Quotes

OK, you can't interview fictional characters. But you can imagine interviewing the characters and invent quotes for them.

Other important details

What other key facts or numbers might you want to include in your news story or podcast?

Turn to the next page for some tips on putting it all together.

News Story Outline

Now that you've gathered your information, it's time to start crafting your article or podcast. Here's an idea of how you might organize your article.

1

HEADLINE/TITLE

This should tell your readers or listeners in just a few words what your article is about.

2

BYLINE

This is the name of the journalist or journalists reporting the story. In this case, that's you. Be sure to give your name!

3

LEAD

Your first paragraph should give a preview of the whole story. In other words, it should be a brief summary of everything you are going to write/talk about in this article or podcast. From just this paragraph, a reader/listener should know all of the most important information: What happened, why it happened, when it happened, where it happened, and who was involved.

4

BODY PARAGRAPHS

Here's where you go into detail. Give some background information (what happened in the Keys before Elmar was released) and more information on what you said in your lead. Be descriptive and clear so that your audience understands and can picture the events you are describing.

5

CONCLUSION

Find a way to sum it all up. One idea is to use a quote. Another idea is to tell what might happen next.