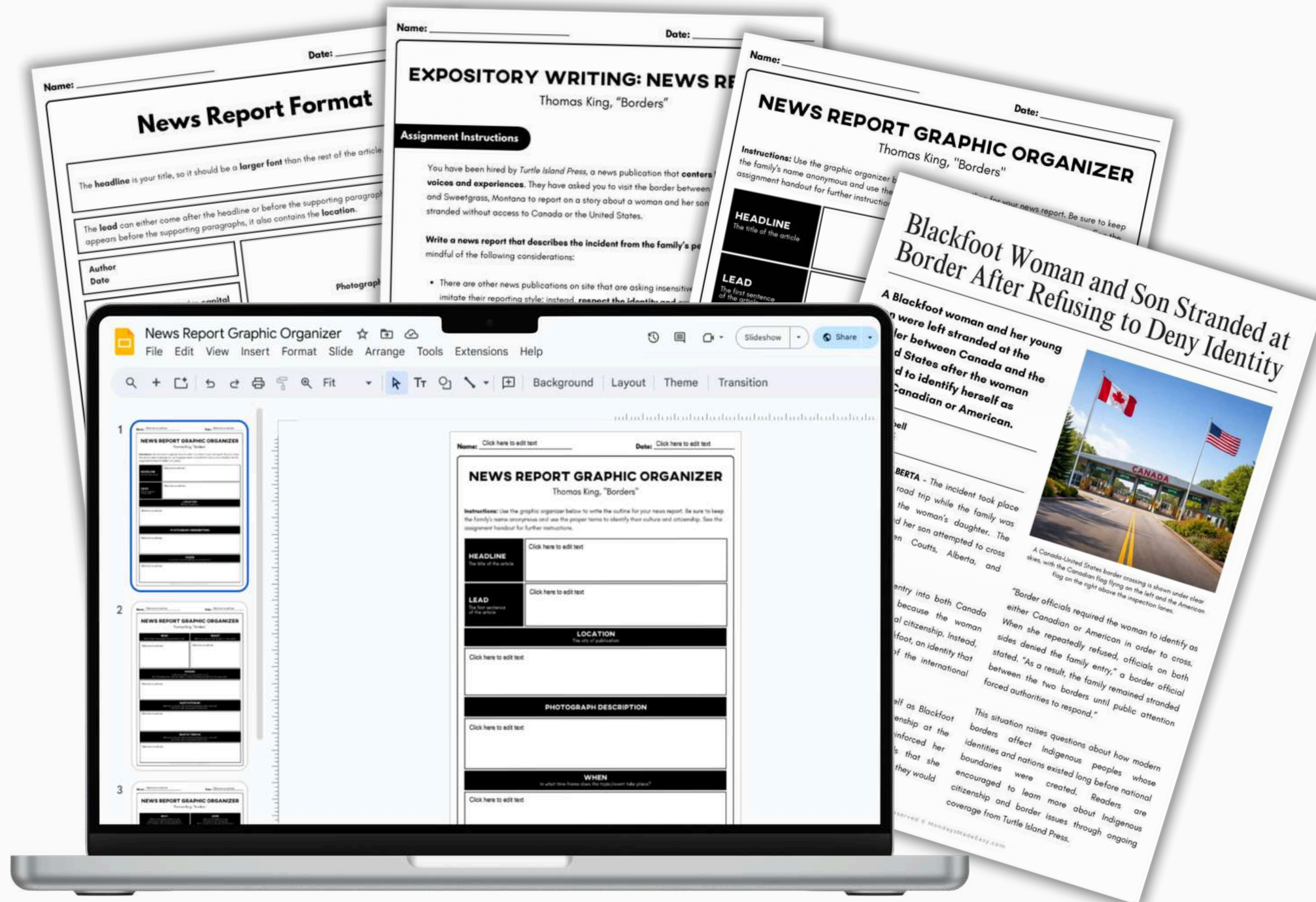


# News Report Writing Assignment

Invite students to retell the events of the narrator's family in "Borders" through the lens of a news report!



- **Scaffold expository writing** by guiding students through news report conventions using informational handouts, graphic organizers, and a mentor example.
- **Reinforce literary understanding** by having students retell key events from "Borders" through an objective, evidence-based journalistic lens.
- **Assess student learning** with an editable 4-level rubric aligned to informational writing expectations and classroom learning goals.

**Write expository articles while assessing students' grasp of "Borders"**

**PURCHASE HERE**

# Included with this resource:

## ✓ Editable Expository Writing Assignment Handout

- Prompts students to approach the short story with cultural sensitivity

## ✓ Graphic Organizer for Writing a News Report

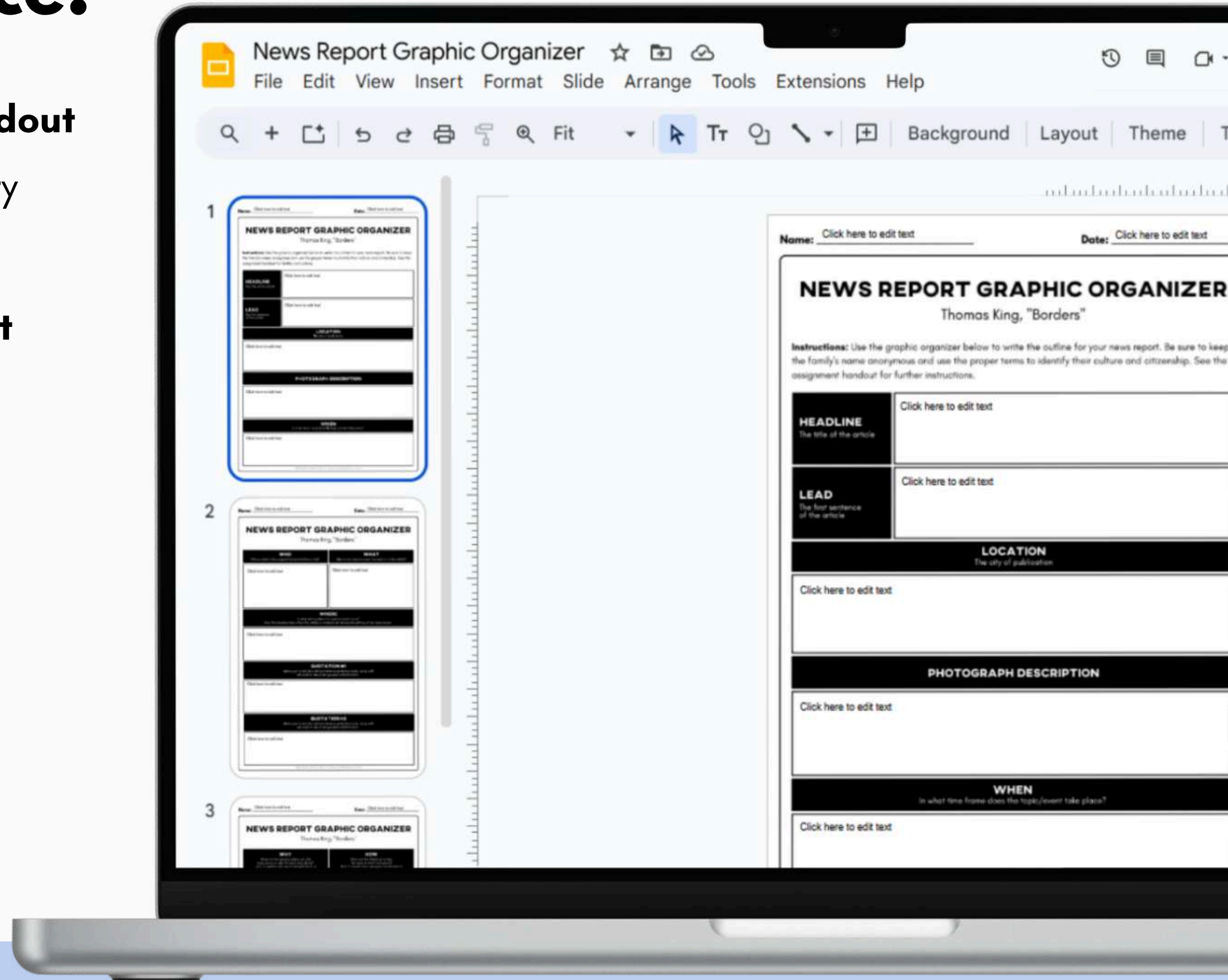
- Five Ws and How (W5H) Model

## ✓ News Report Format Informational Handout

## ✓ Editable & Ready-to-Print 4-Level Rubric

## ✓ Example News Report Mentor Text

## ✓ Teacher Instructions for using this resource



Includes Digital Version for Google Drive®

# News Report Writing Task

Practice expository article writing while assessing students' understanding of "Borders" by Thomas King using this news article assignment!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEWS REPORT GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Thomas King, "Borders"

**Instructions:** Use the graphic organizer below to write the outline for your news report. The family's name is anonymous and use the proper terms to identify their culture. Refer to the assignment handout for further instructions.

<b>HEADLINE</b> The title of the article	
<b>LEAD</b> The first sentence of the article	
<b>LOCATION</b> The city of publication	
<b>PHOTOGRAPH DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>WHEN</b> In what time frame does the topic/event take place?	

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEWS REPORT GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Thomas King, "Borders"

<b>WHY</b> What are the reasons behind why this event took place? Explain why, we should refer back to the cause behind the topic/event.	<b>HOW</b> What are the details as to the topic or event took place? Hint: To explain how, we again should refer back to the "what." Explain, step-by-step, how it happened.
<b>CONCLUSION</b> What questions might the reader still have? Where can the reader find more information? You can also encourage the reader to return to your publications.	

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## News Report Format

\_\_\_\_\_ be a **larger font** than the rest of the article.

\_\_\_\_\_ headline or before the supporting paragraphs. When the lead paragraph, it also contains the **location**.

Photograph

Photograph description

\_\_\_\_\_ the most important details first: **who, what, when, where, why, how**. Explain **why** the topic or event happened. Provide chronological details as to **how** it happened as well. Embed a **quotation** from the article.

\_\_\_\_\_ potential questions and directs the reader to where

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXPOSITORY WRITING: NEWS REPORT

Thomas King, "Borders"

**Assignment Instructions**

You have been hired by *Turtle Island Press*, a news publication that **centers Indigenous voices and experiences**. They have asked you to visit the border between Coumts, Alberta and Sweetgrass, Montana to report on a story about a woman and her son that are stranded without access to Canada or the United States.

**Write a news report that describes the incident from the family's perspective.** Be mindful of the following considerations:

- There are other news publications on site that are asking insensitive questions. Do not imitate their reporting style; instead, **respect the identity and experiences** of the family you are interviewing.
- The family has asked that their names be left out of the news report. **Do not create fictitious names.**
- Be sure to refer to the family's cultural identity using the citizenship and confederacy that they provide you with; do not use terms like "Indian," "Native," "tribe," or other terms that should be avoided in communication with or about Indigenous peoples.

**Be sure to include the following in your news report:**

- A clear and precise **headline and lead**
- The **date** the article was published
- The **location** from which the article was published
- A **photograph** that captures the **setting** (not the people) in the story
- A **description** of the photograph
- Supporting paragraphs** and a **conclusion** (see the **News Report Graphic Organizer**)
- Textual evidence** from "Borders" including paraphrasing and direct quotations
- Proper **in-text citations** and **references** for textual evidence
- Relevant information from our **classroom lessons and discussions**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEWS REPORT GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Thomas King, "Borders"

<b>WHO</b> Who or what is the subject featured in this article?	<b>WHAT</b> What is the topic or event focused on in this article?
<b>WHERE</b> In what setting does the topic or event occur? <i>Hint: The location from which the article is written is not always the setting of the topic/event.</i>	
<b>QUOTATION #1</b> <i>Make sure to include a full sentence in quotation marks, along with information about the speaker's identification.</i>	
<b>QUOTATION #2</b> <i>Make sure to include a full sentence in quotation marks, along with information about the speaker's identification.</i>	

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# Includes Scaffolding Graphic Organizers and Mentor Texts

Support the writing process with additional guidance for structuring and formatting expository writing

The image displays a collection of educational resources. On the left is a news report example titled "Blackfoot Woman and Son Stranded at Border After Refusing to Deny Identity" by Liam Campbell, dated June 27, 2025. The article includes a photograph of a Canada-US border crossing and discusses a Blackfoot woman and her son who were stranded at the border. In the center is a "NEWS REPORT GRAPHIC ORGANIZER" for Thomas King's "Borders", which includes sections for WHY, HOW, LOCATION, PHOTOGRAPH DESCRIPTION, WHEN, and CONCLUSION. On the right is a "News Report Format" template with sections for WHAT, WHERE, QUOTATION #1, QUOTATION #2, and CONCLUSION. Each resource includes a "Name:" and "Date:" field.

Model success criteria and expectations with this completed **news report example**

# Includes Editable & Ready-to-Print 4-Level Rubric

Modify this rubric to meet the unique needs of your classroom

Expository News Report: 4-Level Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (%) \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Level 1 (0-49%)	Level 2 (50-64%)	Level 3 (65-79%)	Level 4 (80-100%)
<b>Knowledge</b>	News report requires more important information from the short story Article does not successfully integrate textual evidence See comments below	News report highlights some important information from the short story Article integrates textual evidence with some success See comments below	News report highlights important information from the short story Article integrates relevant textual evidence successfully	News report thoroughly highlights important information from the short story Article integrates highly relevant textual evidence flawlessly
<b>Inquiry</b>	Approaching success with selection, explanation, and organization of information Limited identification of main ideas or answers to WS-H See comments below	Selection, explanation, and organization of information are somewhat successful Identifies main ideas and answers WS-H adequately See comments below	Successful selection, explanation, and organization of information Effectively identifies main ideas and answers WS-H in detail	Selection, explanation, and organization of information significantly exceeds expectations Skillfully identifies main ideas and answers WS-H in detail
<b>Communication</b>	The grammar and mechanics require improvement Image caption is limited Paragraph does not contain citations See comments below	The grammar and mechanics contain some lapses Image caption is adequate Citations are not referenced according to MLA standards See comments below	The grammar and mechanics are excellent Image caption is effective Citations are referenced successfully according to MLA standards	The grammar and mechanics are flawless Image caption is highly relevant and engaging Citations are referenced perfectly according to MLA standards
<b>Application</b>	News report requires more connection to ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions Grammatical tense is incorrect See comments below	News report somewhat relates to ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions Report is written in the correct grammatical tense throughout some of the report See comments below	News report incorporates information and ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions	News report expands on information and ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions

Expository News Report: 4-Level Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (%) \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Level 1 (0-49%)	Level 2 (50-64%)	Level 3 (65-79%)	Level 4 (80-100%)
<b>Knowledge</b>	News report requires more important information from the short story Article does not successfully integrate textual evidence See comments below	News report highlights some important information from the short story Article integrates textual evidence with some success See comments below	News report highlights important information from the short story Article integrates relevant textual evidence successfully	News report thoroughly highlights important information from the short story Article integrates highly relevant textual evidence flawlessly
<b>Inquiry</b>	Approaching success with selection, explanation, and organization of information Limited identification of main ideas or answers to WS-H See comments below	Selection, explanation, and organization of information are somewhat successful Identifies main ideas and answers WS-H adequately See comments below	Successful selection, explanation, and organization of information Effectively identifies main ideas and answers WS-H in detail	Selection, explanation, and organization of information significantly exceed expectations Skillfully identifies main ideas and answers WS-H in detail
<b>Communication</b>	The grammar and mechanics require improvement Image caption is limited Paragraph does not contain citations See comments below	The grammar and mechanics contain some lapses Image caption is adequate Citations are not referenced according to MLA standards See comments below	The grammar and mechanics are excellent Image caption is effective Citations are referenced successfully according to MLA standards	The grammar and mechanics are flawless Image caption is highly relevant and engaging Citations are referenced perfectly according to MLA standards
<b>Application</b>	News report requires more connection to ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions Grammatical tense is incorrect See comments below	News report somewhat relates to ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions Report is written in the correct grammatical tense throughout some of the report See comments below	News report incorporates information and ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions Article is written in the correct grammatical tense throughout the majority of the report	News report expands on information and ideas introduced in classroom lessons and discussions Article is written in the correct grammatical tense throughout the entire report

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_



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