

Free Press 101: Early Years

WHAT'S IN A HEADLINE?

Free Press 101 learning experiences are meant to be short, informative, and equip learners with skills to better understand topics in journalism and journalistic integrity.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Read through this document and **What's in a headline?** in **Free Press 101**.
- Facilitate learner access to technology as needed.
- Retrieve a print copy of the Free Press to use in the learning experiences.
- Print copies of news articles, adjusting the reading level for your learners. You may choose to find articles yourself, or you can use the ready-made examples on pages 3-6 ([PDF here](#)).

GOALS OF THESE LEARNING EXPERIENCES:

Learners will demonstrate understanding of how and why headlines are developed.

DEFINITIONS:

Headline: a short, engaging description of the story, placed above it in larger front.

EXTENSION OPPORTUNITIES:

These learning experiences take learners through the process of understanding the form and function of headlines, including writing their own. Below are some further considerations for writing good headlines.

- Length: the headline must fit in the space allotted
- Mood: should match the tone of the story
- Accuracy: the headline should accurately reference the content of the story

LEARNING EXPERIENCE 1: BOOKS AND TITLES

1.
 - Using books from your classroom or school library, collect books with varying titles. Titles that are mysterious, shocking, or staid will serve well.
 - Using the books as examples, ask the students how the title of a book encourages them to read it (or not). Ask them why they feel this way. Some responses might include that the topic is one they're already interested in, or because the title promises a mystery or discovery.
 - Choose one book to read with your class, but obscure the cover. After reading the book, ask students to come up with as many titles as they can. Discuss if the suggested titles are of appropriate length, specificity and accuracy. Record the suggestions on your whiteboard or on chart paper. Once all suggestions have been made, ask students to share how each suggestion makes them feel:
 1. Does this suggestion make you want to read the book? Why or why not?
 2. Does this suggestion make you feel a certain way? (Scared, curious, excited?)
 3. Which titles do you think are best for this book? Why?
 - Remind students that there are titles on many things: books, toy stores, YouTube videos, and news articles are some examples. These all work the same as the book titles: they want you to pay attention and spend more time there.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE 2: HEADLINES IN THE NEWSPAPER

2.
 - Using your copy of the Free Press, ask learners to make observations about the headlines in it. Explain that each headline is a new story in the newspaper, like a title is to a book. A few guiding questions are below.
 1. What do you notice about the headlines?
 2. How do the headlines show the importance of the story?
 3. Which headlines seem to grab your attention? Which don't? Why?
 - Using the examples on pages 3-6, print and distribute one article to each group of 2-4 students. These are adapted from real Free Press articles, but adjusted for reading level.
 - Ask learners to compare the options for headlines that could accompany their story. Learners should read the story and headlines, and then choose the headline they feel is the best option. Ask them to explain their choice. This can be done individually or in small groups.
 - Examining headlines on current Free Press stories, ask learners to write alternate headlines. You may use the examples provided on pages 3-6 or discover your own by searching "**News for Young Children**" on the Free Press site. One way to collaborate on this task is to pin an article to the whiteboard or bulletin board and ask students to write on sticky notes or the space around the article. They can be challenged to write headlines that respond to the various opportunities for extension on the previous page. For example:
 1. Write a funny headline for this story. Is it appropriate to the tone of the story?
 2. Write a headline that communicates a different mood than the original one.
 3. Write a headline that is more specific or more general than the original.
 4. Write a headline that is longer or shorter than the original.
 - Ask learners to reflect on their alternate headlines.
 1. Would they commit to using any of them?
 2. Are there any suggested headlines that they would avoid? Why?
 3. Ask them to make a final decision on a headline for each story.

Read the news clipping and then choose from the possible headlines to pick the best one. Be ready to explain your choice.

On Tuesday afternoon, Winnipeg was the hottest place in Canada. The city was in the middle of a heat wave, and many other towns in Manitoba were also breaking records.

In Winnipeg, the temperature went all the way up to 36.9C. That was hotter than the old record of 33.3C, which was set over 90 years ago! Even at 5pm, Winnipeg was still the hottest spot in the whole country.

Ansh, a 2-year-old boy, and his dad, Chandan, tried to cool down by playing the fountain near the Manitoba Legislative Building.

Natalie Hasell, a meteorologist (a person who studies the weather), said, "It has been very hot for several days now. This is unusual for May."

Other places were just as hot. Towns like Gimli, Emerson, Carman and Steinbach also reached over 35C. Even smaller towns broke their records. Some of these records had lasted since the 1930s and 1970s!

But while Winnipeg was baking in the heat, something very different happened in northern Manitoba. In the town of Churchill it snowed!

Natalie explained that the heat would not last. A storm system called a Colorado low was on the way. Later in the week, temperatures in Winnipeg could fall to -1C at night, with rain and even frost. Saturday could be as chilly as 5C. By Monday, though, the weather will warm back up to around 18C.

Natalie reminded everyone: "The weather can change quickly. One day it might be very hot, and the next day it could feel like winter. It's important to pay attention and be ready."

The sudden, cool weather and rain might help to slow down wildfires burning in the province, but experts say it won't be enough to put them all out.

Adapted from "Winnipeg the hottest place in Canada; soaring temperatures shatter weather records across Manitoba"
Tyler Searle
Originally published May 13, 2025

Winnipeg's weather
whiplash week

From sizzling to
shivering in 72 hours

Manitoba plunged
into weather chaos

Canada sees big
changes in weather

Winnipeg hottest city
as heat records fall

Read the news clipping and then choose from the possible headlines to pick the best one. Be ready to explain your choice.

MALAK ABAS

Months ago, thieves broke into a meat shop in Winnipeg's North End. They stole something very special: a vintage cash register that belonged to the Klopick family.

The register wasn't just a machine. It was a family treasure, reminding them of Walter Klopick, the father who started the business, Tenderloin Meat and Sausage. When it was stolen, his son Christian, who now runs the shop, was heartbroken. He even asked people on social media to help find it.

As weeks went by, Christian thought he would never see the register again. But then, something surprising happened. On Friday afternoon, a man came into the store with a cart covered by a tarp. Inside was the missing cash register!

It was scratched and missing its drawer, but it was still there. Christian was shocked. "I thought it was gone forever," he said.



MIKE DEAL / FREE PRESS

Christian Klopick was shocked to have the vintage cash register, a fixture at Tenderloin Meat and Sausage, returned. It was stolen in February.

The man didn't give his name. He just said he knew it belonged to the shop and wanted to return it. He didn't ask for a reward, but the staff gave him \$100 to say thank you.

Since then, many people have shared kind words and ideas for fixing the old register. Christian is happy it's back, even if it looks a little damaged right now.

"It's a bit sad to see it broken, but we'll get it repaired," he said.

Still, the shop continues to face problems. Christian says the store deals with break-ins or shoplifting almost every month. Lately, more people have been running out of the shop with meat without paying.

Police reports show that while overall crime in

Winnipeg went down in 2024, shoplifting went up by over 40 percent compared to 2023. Most of the stolen items were worth less than \$5,000.

Christian hopes things will get better soon. For now, he is just grateful that his family's special cash register has come home.

Adapted from "Meat shop owner surprised, grateful after late father's cash register returned after winter robbery."
Originally published May 13, 2025

Crime, kindness and community in Winnipeg

Stolen cash register returned to Winnipeg meat shop months after break-in

The lost and found cash register

Meat shop owner grateful register returned

Read the news clipping and then choose from the possible headlines to pick the best one. Be ready to explain your choice.

If making ice cream at home feels tricky, think of it like making soup. That's the advice of Tyler Malek, co-founder of Salt & Straw, a creative ice cream company from Portland, Oregon.

"Start with a good base recipe, like when you make soup stock," Malek explains. "Then you can add strawberries for strawberry ice cream or chocolate for chocolate ice cream. You can do anything!"

This idea is at the heart of Malek's new cookbook, *America's Most Iconic Ice Creams: A Salt & Straw Cookbook*. With co-author JJ Goode, he shows readers how to make different bases—like gelato, sorbet, custard, coconut, and classic ice cream. Once you know the basics, you can try wild flavors, such as Banana Parsnip Sherbet or Strawberry Honey Balsamic with Black Pepper.

The book highlights 10 classic flavors, including vanilla, chocolate, coffee, pistachio, cookie dough, and salted caramel. Malek says once you understand the basics of flavor and technique, you can create endless combinations.

Salt & Straw began in 2011 as a small food cart. Today, it has over 40 shops in seven states, known for unusual monthly flavors. Past creations include Caramelized Turkey & Cranberry Sauce, Black Olive Brittle with Goat Cheese, and even Malted Potato Chip Cupcake. Malek admits he's written 2,500 recipes—and had many failures too.

He experiments like a scientist, using ingredients like xanthan gum to keep ice cream smooth and acids like citric or malic to balance flavors.

For Malek, making ice cream is about learning and storytelling. "It's like writing a story through every flavor," he says. His best tip for home cooks? Make a big batch of ice cream base, freeze it in containers, and add fresh fruit or chocolate whenever you're ready.

That way, you can create your own amazing flavors at home!

Adapted from Mark Kennedy
Associated Press
May 25 2025



The base for ice cream is like a good soup stock that's endlessly adaptable.

Ace of (ice cream) base

One madman's quest to make the perfect ice cream

This guy thinks ice cream is just cold soup and honestly, he's not wrong

Making ice cream is easier than you think

Tyler Malek shares tips, recipes in new ice cream cookbook

Read the news clipping and then choose from the possible headlines to pick the best one. Be ready to explain your choice.



MYKHAILO IVANOV / THE CANADIAN PRESS
Mykhailo Ivanov immigrated to Winnipeg a little over two years ago to flee the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

When Mykhailo Ivanov moved to Winnipeg from Ukraine, he didn't know hockey. But after watching a Jets game, he became a huge fan. "It helps me feel at home," he said.

Christine Munsch and her husband moved from France to Toronto. They tried other sports but loved hockey most. Christine was amazed by the fast skating and how friendly fans were, even during tough playoff games. "When people learned we liked hockey, it was easier to make friends," she said.

Now Christine cheers for the Toronto Maple Leafs, cuddling her Carlton the Bear

mascot during games. She even bought playoff tickets, choosing the upper level seats where fans cheer the loudest.

In Winnipeg, Ivanov says the city feels like a "holiday" during Jets playoff runs. He wears team jerseys, makes posters, and shouts "Go Jets Go!"

Both say hockey helps them feel Canadian.

Adapted from Rianna Lim
Canadian Press
May 14 2025

Hockey helping newcomers feel at home in Canada

Sports can help bring people together

Newcomers embrace hockey as a path to belonging in Canada

Hockey heals: How Canada's game brings comfort to newcomers

Fleeing war, finding friendship at the rink