

Reading for Information

Jackie Robinson Makes Headlines

Newspaper Articles

What's the Connection?

You have just read Jackie Robinson's autobiography. Now read what newspaper reporters had to say about him during his career.

Skill Focus: Identify Treatment and Scope

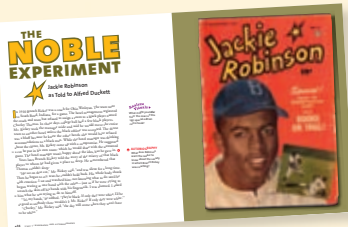
Even when the same writing topic is assigned to everyone in your class, each student's paper will be different. This happens because you each make different decisions about how to cover the topic.

The way a topic is handled is called its **treatment**. Treatment includes the form the writer chooses to use, as well as the writer's purpose. Treatment also includes **tone**, or the writer's attitude toward the subject. For example, here are two ways to treat the same topic: movie ratings.

Movie Ratings	Form	Purpose	Tone
Treatment A	news article	to inform	serious
Treatment B	editorial	to persuade	lighthearted

Another thing that makes each piece of writing different is the writer's **scope**—what he or she focuses on. For example, even two serious articles about movie ratings can still be very different in scope. One might focus on how movie ratings have changed over the years. The other could focus on how inaccurate ratings hurt good movies. As you read the articles that follow, identify their treatment and scope by answering the questions in this chart. Doing so will help you to connect ideas within each selection and between them.

Element	Questions to Answer	"Montreal Signs Negro Shortstop"	"Robinson Steals Home in Fifth"
Treatment	What form does the writing take?	sports article	sports article
	What is the purpose?		
	What is the tone?		
Scope	What is the topic?		
	What aspects of the topic are covered in the article?		
	How much detail is provided?		



Use with "The Noble Experiment," page 834.



READING 10D Make logical connections between ideas within a text and across two or three texts representing different genres.

MONTREAL SIGNS NEGRO SHORTSTOP

Organized Baseball Opens Its Ranks to Negro Player



Jackie Robinson signs with the Montreal Royals. Looking on are Hector Racine, Royals president; Branch Rickey Jr.; and Romeo Gauvreau, Royals vice president.

Robinson Gets Bonus to Sign **A**

MONTREAL, Oct. 23 (AP)—The first Negro player ever to be admitted to organized baseball, Jack Robinson, today put his signature on a contract calling not only for a player's salary, but also a bonus for signing.

Product of a three-year search and \$25,000 hunt for Negro diamond talent by the Dodgers, Robinson signed up in a history-making huddle with Hector Racine and Lieut. Col. Romeo Gauvreau,

Royals' president and vice president respectively, and Branch Rickey Jr., who heads the Brooklyn farm system.

"Mr. Racine and my father," said young Rickey, "will undoubtedly be severely criticized in some sections of the United States where racial prejudice is rampant. They are not inviting trouble, but they won't avoid it if it comes. Jack Robinson is a fine type of young man, intelligent and college bred, and I think he can take it, too."

FOCUS ON FORM

The purpose of a newspaper article is to provide timely news about an event that has just taken place. Newspaper articles typically have the following elements:

- a **headline**, which is printed in large type and often sums up the article
- a **subtitle**, which adds a "teaser," a prompt to make you want to read
- a **dateline** at the beginning of the article to tell when and where the story was written
- **photographs**
- **captions**
- a **lead**, the attention-grabbing first few sentences
- **information** about *who, what, when, where, why, and how*

A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

What do you learn from the **subtitle** of this article that you don't learn from the **headline**?

Robinson, himself, had little to say. “Of course, I can’t begin to tell
30 you how happy I am that I am
the first member of my race in
organized ball,” he declared. “I
realize how much it means to me,
40 to my race and to baseball. I can
only say I’ll do my very best to
come through in every manner.”

B TREATMENT AND SCOPE

Would you describe the writer’s **tone** as respectful, humorous, or something else? Add this description to your chart.



Robinson is seen here as he takes a practice swing.

Implications Are Realized

With sports writers and photographers assembled, young Rickey and Racine made the announcement here. Rickey Jr. went on to explain that both he and his father—who was not present—realized the implications and possible reactions in other quarters of the diamond world. **B**

“It may cost the Brooklyn organization a number of ball players,” he said. “Some of them, particularly if they come from certain sections
50 of the South, will steer away from a club with colored players on its roster. Some players now with us may even quit, but they’ll be back in baseball after they work a year or two in a cotton mill.”

Rickey Sr.’s hunt for Negro talent has produced some twenty-five others he expects to sign to contracts for double-A ball, with the
60 intention of developing them into big leaguers.

On Aug. 29 Robinson was quietly taken to Brooklyn. Rickey Sr. told him what he had in mind, and the broad-shouldered Pasadena, Calif., Negro agreed to sign a contract by Nov. 1.

“Robinson is a good ball player and comes to us highly recommended by our scouts,” Racine
70 said. “He will join us at our training camp in Florida next spring.” **C**

C TREATMENT AND SCOPE

Identify the **topic** of this article. What aspects of this topic does the reporter focus on? Add this information to your chart.

Reprint from **The New York Times**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1947

SPORTS

33

ROBINSON STEALS HOME IN FIFTH

by ROSCOE MCGOWEN



Robinson slides home to win the ball game against Pittsburgh. **D**

PITTSBURGH, June 24—They're never too old to learn something. The 40-year-old Fritz Ostermueller learned tonight at Forbes Field, before 35,331 distressed witnesses, that it is unwise to wind up with Jackie Robinson on third base. **E**

The Negro flash stole home with
10 two out in the fifth inning while

Fritz was going through his full motion to pitch a third ball to Dixie Walker—and that run was enough to win the ball game, although the Brooks went on to outscore the Pirates, 4-2.

At the time Robinson committed his larceny the score was tied, both teams having scored twice in
20 the second inning. Dixie Walker

D NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Based on the **headline**, **photo**, and **caption**, what does the article focus on?

E TREATMENT AND SCOPE

Reread lines 2-8. What **tone** does a phrase like "They're never too old to learn something" convey?

opened the second with a long triple to left center and Pee Wee Reese, catching a three-and-one pitch on the fat part of his bat,

walloped the ball far over the outer left field barrier for his eighth homer of the campaign.

The Box Score

PITTSBURGH							BROOKLYN								
		ab.	r.	h.	po.	a.	e.			ab.	r.	h.	po.	a.	e.
Rikard	rf	3	0	1	3	0	0	Stanky	2b	4	0	1	1	4	0
Wiet'nn	2b	4	0	0	3	1	0	Gionfriddo	lf	4	1	0	3	0	0
Gustine	3b	4	0	0	0	2	0	Robinson	1b	4	1	1	11	0	0
Kiner	lf	3	1	1	1	0	0	Furillo	cf	4	0	2	2	0	1
Cox.	ss	3	1	2	2	3	0	Walker	rf	3	1	1	1	0	0
Fletcher	1b	4	0	1	5	1	0	Reese	ss	4	1	1	3	3	0
W'lake	cf	4	0	0	2	0	0	Jorgens'n	3b	4	0	2	0	2	0
Howell	c	4	0	1	8	1	0	Hodges	c	3	0	0	5	0	0
Oster'ler	p	3	0	1	3	1	0	Branca	p	4	0	0	1	1	0
Sullivan		1	0	0	0	0	0								
Total		33	2	7	27	9	0	Total		34	4	8	27	10	1
Brooklyn		0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	—	4			
Pittsburgh		0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	2			

Runs batted in—Reese 2, Fletcher, Furillo

Two-base hit—Rikard. Three-base hit—Walker. Home run—Reese.

Stolen bases—Furillo, Robinson, Gionfriddo. Double play—Stanky, Reese

and Robinson. Left on bases—Brooklyn 7. Pittsburgh 7. Bases on balls—

Off Branca 3. Ostermueller 4. Struck out—By Ostermueller 7.

Branca 4. Umpires—Stewart, Ballanfant and Henline. Time of game—2:41.

Attendance—35,331. **F**

F NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

A **box score** is a **graphic aid** that uses abbreviations to show at a glance the number of times a player

- was at bat (**ab.**)
- scored a run (**r.**)
- got a hit (**h.**)
- put out another player (**po.**)
- assisted in a play (**a.**)
- made an error (**e.**)

What else can you learn from this box score?

For more information about the structure and purpose of a newspaper, see page R14 in the *Reading Handbook*.

Comprehension

1. **Recall** What was Jackie Robinson the first African-American person to do?
2. **Summarize** In the newspaper article “Montreal Signs Negro Shortstop,” Branch Rickey Jr. says that he and his father realize what the reactions to signing Robinson may be. Summarize these possible reactions.



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Critical Analysis

3. **Analyze the Lead** Explain what a lead is. Identify the lead in either one of the two newspaper articles you just read. Then explain how that lead gets its readers’ attention.
4. **Compare Treatment and Scope** Using the chart you completed, compare the treatment and scope of the two articles.

Read for Information: Evaluate Texts for Usefulness

WRITING PROMPT

Imagine you have chosen one of the following topics for a report:

- box scores and how they have changed over the years
- attitudes toward African-American athletes in the 1940s
- sports reporting

Explain which newspaper article you would use as a source of information for this topic and why. If both articles would be useful to you, be sure to explain what each would provide.

To answer this prompt, first identify the topic you would want to focus on. Then follow these steps:

1. Review the chart you filled in. What information does each article provide?
2. In a paragraph, identify the topic you picked, the article(s) you would use for a report on that topic, and a brief explanation as to why the article(s) would be useful to you.

