

PLANNING:

**NARRATIVE CONTENT, HEADING,
CHARACTERS.**

Narrative / Creative Writing Task



RESEARCH/ PRIMARY INSPIRATION

- Research sources include: The Guardian, The Metro
- Direct quotations taken from newspaper headlines-

“Driver waited 20 hours for RAC after M25 Breakdown.”

“Give the dog a bonus”

“Braced for big blizzards”

“Call off the search, A.I has the answers.”

“ESCAPE FROM HELL!”

“Don’t threaten a nuclear power, says Russia as it ignores deadline.”



COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS

Selected from The Guardian and The Metro, these titles caught my attention, delving my focus into what the article was specifically communicating. Bold, short and catchy, each text sparked curiosity-drawing interest from shock, threat and confusion.

Each story is creative and unique, following the conventions of any typical newspaper print. This is due to the presence of social media and technology within our lives where messages can be transmitted far quicker across the world, especially when news breaks out initially. For this reason, many newspapers can be said to focus predominantly on smaller, more descriptive and intriguing aspects, in order to sustain reader interest. Often drama and exaggeration are applied to withhold this attention.

This recognition brought awareness into the importance of narrative content. Using the quotations selected above, a certain playfulness sparked ideas with regards to a storyline for my article, within which the line between reality and fiction soon became blurred.



PLANNING: NARRATIVE CONTENT

- Concept 1

Huddersfield under lockdown due to severe blizzards mixed with nuclear contamination. A.I. police radar is broken. Police dog escapes and is tracked back to initial owner, who was stranded on main highway for 20 hours – ultimate escape from Hell!

- Concept 2

A.I. Breakthrough! As all police radars go down during Huddersfield lockdown, back up K9 (A.I. dog) was released in severe blizzard – tracked to find he saved the life of vulnerable man broken down on abandoned highway. Man agreed to be interviewed and revealed he was on his way to a ‘safe place’ when his car sprung a leak in his radiator causing a serious engine malfunction.



PLANNING: NARRATIVE CONTENT

Further Thinking

To heighten the drama, I began investigating natural geographical catastrophes that could transform my story from an extremely fictional concept, to something more natural with a miracle conclusion, enriching a sense of relief from the reader, while provoking greater engagement.

Blizzards – structural damage – road blockages – extremely high winds – small, light vehicles or HGVs lose control – rain – potential flooding – slippery surfaces – saturated grounds and roads



PLANNING: NARRATIVE CONTENT

Collective Ideas

- 1) Bridge collapsed on car, leaving man stranded under rubble for 20 hours
- 2) Car blown into river with high winds and slippery surfaces, leaving man stranded almost completely submerged, upside down for 20 hours.
- 3) Tree collapses with high winds, fall into road and blocks path, man vs tree, man loses k9 rescues.

Following considerable review into each of these ideas with additional communication from fellow peers, a decision was made in favour of the river themed event, with a shared agreement that this would be the most terrifying situation, due to the real threat of death and lack of personal control. It was agreed that this would evoke the greatest fear, strongest visual image, as well as the most hooking narrative story.



PLANNING: NARRATIVE CONTENT

Final Idea

Recently formulated k9 A.I police dog comes to the rescue of a vulnerable man, trapped in a submerged vehicle known to have being physically blown into river during Huddersfield's blizzard: rated a case red emergency. In an exclusive interview the man, named Alexander Loxley, told us he was on the way to a secure area before the incident took place before explaining what exactly happened and how he managed to survive. The police force has recently released a statement explaining the tests for their new technological advancement, the K9, were still underway, yet all their systems crashed. Knowing they were fighting a battle against time, with no offices or rescue team able to make contact, they took the chance. The rescue that changed history!



PLANNING: HEADLINE

Proven through my research and briefly mentioned, the headline is an essential part of any printed media. This is the aspect that stands out most to the viewer - so it is important that it is catchy, intriguing, and makes the audience want to read the main body texts. It must not be excessively long either, meaning it can be read with a quick glance, and therefore, be engaging.

Ideas:

- A.I. Breakthrough! K9 saves man after being submerged in Porsche for 20 hours during Huddersfield's case red lockdown.
- Submerged in Porsche for 20 hours - A nightmare come true!
- A.I. BREAKTHROUGH! Submerged in Porsche for 20 hours - K9 saves the day!



A.I. BREAKTHROUGH! SUBMERGED IN PORSCHE FOR 20 HOURS DURING HUDDERSFIELD'S CASE RED LOCKDOWN – K9 SAVES THE DAY!

This is the result of typographic playfulness; content is selected specifically to illustrate the storyline in the most basic format, providing readers with strong insight without giving away much narrative.

This means the article can be more hooking as the viewer tries to make sense of events, briefly mentioned within the headline. As the reader becomes more engaged throughout the story, emotive connections begin to form, drawing them into the narrative content and general storyline.



CHARACTER INITIATION: ALEX LOXLEY

- About:

- Professional businessman in property management and architecture.
Family man – will do anything to ensure his family are okay, happy and safe. Works hard to provide the best he can for his wife and 2 children. Shy around new people, keeps his friends close, knows how to have fun.
Likes & Hobbies – cars, walking with his dog in the countryside, football, cooking, biking
Dislikes – feeling isolated from people, not being in control, being stuck inside for too long.

- Role in Story:

- Becomes trapped in Porsche on the way to a 'safe zone' during Huddersfield's lockdown.
He has just left work and is on the phone to his wife, who is urging him to hurry up as the wind is getting stronger. Alex reassures her it's going to be okay and agrees to meet her and their children at safe zone 2.
- Alex stops to get fuel, worried about the damage of running his Porsche on a low tank completely underestimating how fast the wind became critical, where not long into his journey his car was swept off the road into the river.



CHARACTER INITIATION: PC DAPWOOD

- About:

- Known to be a highly regarded, respectable police officer. Has fast reactions with emergency circumstances. Knows how to formulate a quick plan of action with his team. Good at giving orders and keeping everybody calm. One of the most credited police responders for having saved lives.
Likes & Hobbies – travelling when given the opportunity, enjoys seeing friends going to pubs, plays golf weekly.
Dislikes – Rugby, fast food, not being in control of any situation.

- Role in Story:

- The responder to an outside 999 call giving information about Mr. Loxley's position. A member of the general public saw him trapped in the river from the window of their convenience store window – where they were seeking shelter on the lower ground floors.



CHARACTER INITIATION: K9

- **About:**

- Technological interface with an inbuilt conscience, programmed and driven to be a rescue machine. Part tested. Developed by a underground design team working closely with the police force on this top secret masterpiece.

- **Role in Story:**

- K9 is released from the police shelter to rescue Mr. Loxley after original and back-up actions fail. Fighting against the clock nobody knew if K9s first rescue mission would be a success. He retrieves Mr. Loxley in a miracle rescue.

