

So you want to be a caption writer? We know the answer—NO! Most of you do not want to be a caption writer. You feel it's too hard. You imagine it's too difficult to think up just the right thing to say about that particular picture. Well, let us help with this quick and easy lesson on how to write captions.

See the picture below. Let's write a caption for it. One that tells everything we need to know about the picture but also one that will grab the reader's eye and get them to read it.

- Step 1: **Who is in the photo?** French students Marta McFarland, Robert Underhill, Teresa Jamon and Terry Smythe.
- Step 2: **What are they doing and what happened as a result of what they did?** They are going over their French homework assignment but seem to have found something funny in their French textbook. They told their teacher who told the principal, who told the school board.
- Step 3: **When did all this happen?** Just prior to 3rd period on a school day in October.
- Step 4: **Where did this take place?** In Mrs. Yablonksi's French classroom.
- Step 5: **Take those facts and create your basic caption.** *French students Marta McFarland, Robert Underhill, Teresa Jamon and Terry Smythe laugh over a double-meaning caption in their French textbook prior to Mrs. Yablonksi's second period class in early October.*
- Step 6: **Add a second line if there is additional information that does not fit into the basic caption.** *The school board later found that the double-meaning caption was obscene and ordered the book removed from the school.*
- Step 7: **Edit the two sentences** to remove redundant words and change the order so as not to make all captions begin with the people's names.
- Step 8: **Add an eye-catching kicker** to the caption and there you have it. See the photo below.



Funny but wrong

Sharing a laugh, French students Marta McFarland, Robert Underhill, Teresa Jamon and Terry Smythe react after being the first to discover a double-meaning caption in their French textbook in early October. By November the school board had found that this caption was obscene and ordered the book removed from the school.



On a separate sheet of paper, answer these questions and write a caption for the three pictures at right.

- Step 1: Who is in the photo?
- Step 2: What are they doing and what happened as a result of what they did?
- Step 3: When did all this happen?
- Step 4: Where did this take place?
- Step 5: Take those facts and create your basic caption.
- Step 6: Add a second line if there is additional information that does not fit into the basic caption.
- Step 7: Edit the two sentences to remove redundant words and change the order so as not to make all captions begin with the people's names.
- Step 8: Add an eye-catching kicker to the caption and there you have it.

