

6-1927

## EC1605 Writing Lead Sentences

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June  
1927

Nebraska  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS  
U. of N. Agr. College & U.S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating  
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

Extension  
Circular  
1605b

# WRITING LEAD SENTENCES

## THE OLD OLD STORY

sorrow, and the sympathy of the entire community is extended to the family at this time.

### WRANGLERS CLUB

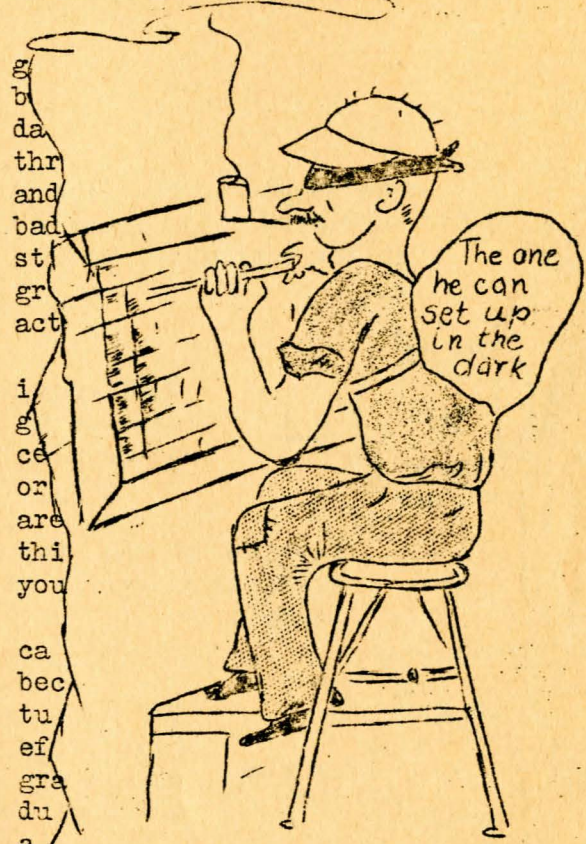
#### MEETS THURSDAY

The Wranglers Club held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Miss Ima Fusser last Thursday and fifteen members were present.

After a delightful afternoon, dainty refreshments were served and the guests departed at a late hour saying that a good time was had by all.

### SCHOOL NOTES

The Juniors are the champion spellers of



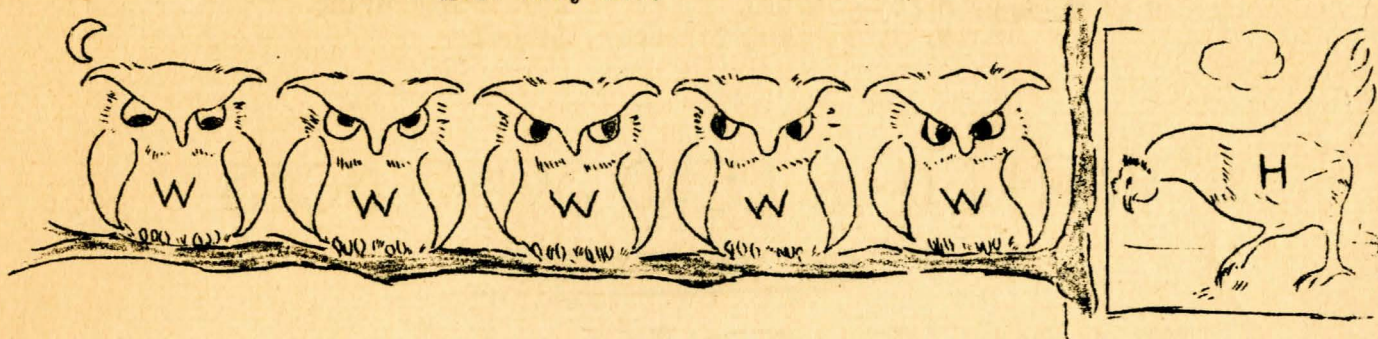
Stories telling no more than this one about the Wranglers Club have come in to the editor so often that he can set them up in the dark. If your club does nothing more interesting than meet, count noses, sit around and sigh, eat dainty refreshments (probably ice cream and cake), and then go home, you as the news reporter do have a real job on your hands.

But we think every live Standard 4-H Club in Nebraska plans things and does things. Doesn't yours? Read over the other pages of this circular and try to copy some of the suggestions in them into your stories. Forget all about this Old, Old Story. Let's make it obsolete, - that means discarded and old fashioned, - like buggies and - hairpins.



Now, newspaper men say there are six questions answered in every good story. If you read the last monthly lesson over and over, you already know this. This month we are going to impress these five W's and the H upon your minds by calling out the Owl family and the little red hen that is famed for digging into things.

Here they are:



H-O-O?

The people in the club at the meeting, their titles, addresses. The organizations in the story, their importance in the community, county, or state.



-H-A-T?

What happened or is to happen? What did your club do or plan to do? What did any individuals do or plan to do? What did someone say?



H-E-N?

The time of day, day of week, month, and year, stated by calendar dates, or by "last" or "next" Thursday, for example.



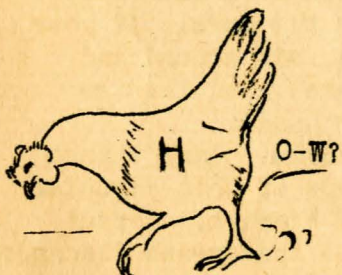
H-E-R-E?

The meeting place, location in town or from town or other well-known place, location of community, individual's home, farm, place of business, or place where events happen.



H-Y?

The reasons why something is planned or happens, especially when the plan or the event is unusual.



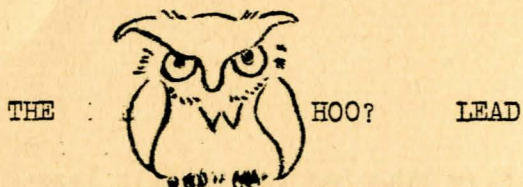
The details of just how some part of the event took place, an explanation of how the club was organized, how a demonstration was given, how it happened that the club had such a large exhibit at the fair, etc.



Those of us who have written some stories know that the hardest part about news writing is getting the first sentence written. That first is the important one that attracts the reader's attention, too, you remember from the last lesson.

Which one of the owls do you want to scare off the limb first? And which one next? Or would you rather shoo the old hen out to do her stuff first?

Let's try it each way in the rest of this circular. Then you try it different ways with your stories until you get each story written just to suit both you and your editor.



Six boys and girls around the Pumpkin Center school house have just completed the organization of a boys and girls pig club. They elected Jim Brown local leader and the following club officers at their meeting last Friday:

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James Wilson and George Brown are the two boys chosen as the Live Wire Baby Beef club demonstration team to go to the county fair next week. They won the club contest last Saturday.

The boys will demonstrate -

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L. I. Frisbie, state club leader from Lincoln, attended the monthly meeting of the Busy Sewers clothing club last Monday night. He was in the county finishing up the arrangements for the summer club camp to be held here at the fair grounds on June 15-17.

"We are expecting 100 or more boys and girls and local leaders from the five counties in this district," he said in talking about the camp. - - -

The Valley Pig Club, well known club of boys and girls in South Valley, will entertain the people of the Valley at their final achievement day next Friday. They have the fifth year's work entirely completed now and six of the ten members are stepping on out of club work with this achievement day. - -

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If you scare the "Who?" owl off the limb first, his twin, the "What?" owl will almost always fly off too and you have the two of them in the air to handle in that first sentence. If you try to scare Mr. "What?" first, his twin will go too. So you had better study this page and page 3 together.



How to fit a baby beef for the show ring was the monthly lesson for the Peppy Baby Beef club last Saturday. The boys met at the barns of their leader, John Wilson, and fitted up the pair of calves being fed by the Wilson boys, Harry and Tom.

Five bungalow aprons were made last week by the girls of the Hope Chest clothing club. They had just taken the monthly lesson in the meeting the week before, and, since each of them needed an apron, they all went to the store together, bought the goods, and made the aprons right away.

Clara Brown's is pink, Marion White's is blue, - - - -

The annual club tour brot out 67 boys and girls club members and their families last Friday. They visited each farm where a member lives and stopped a few minutes at each place to see how the calf or pig is getting along.--

Six firsts, three seconds, and two third premiums were won by the Do It cooking club at the county fair. Five other clubs exhibiting had to be content with the other seven prizes offered.

Dorothy Green's bread took a first and - - - - -

Now the two owls we have been talking about are the big kind that hoot out their questions, "Who?" and "What?" in a deep important-sounding tone of voice. The next pair are little screech owls that always add their little bit to the family concert to make the story.

The first one always says "When?" and the second one "Where?". They are not twins, in fact, sometimes you see them entirely apart. The first one is always looking at his watch and his calendar, the second one at the road map and the geography.



Generally they are tag-alongs, and don't fly until something has started the bigger owls. But once in a while they get a scare all their own, that is, the most interesting thing in the whole story to be told is connected with the time or with the place.

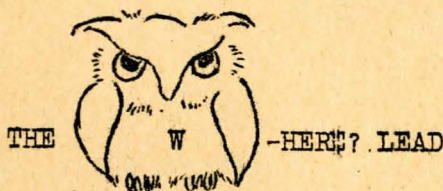
Let's try some "When?" leads, then some "Where?" leads.



By the time the club year is finished, every girl in the Big Valley canning club will have the shelves of her cellar full of vegetables and fruits for the winter. - - - -

Thursday afternoon, July 7; is the day set for the annual county tour of boys and girls clubs - - - - -

When the Busy Cultivators corn club had their exhibits arranged at the county fair, old agricultural hall was the fullest it had been in years, John Corntassel, superintendent of the department said. The boys had brot in 47 exhibits - - - - -



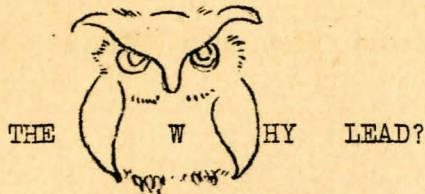
Will Brown's south eighty has been chosen by the Lively corn club as the place for their five acre test plat this year. It is right along the highway so everyone can see it. The boys will plant - - - - -

On the bluff above the bend of the river, eleven girls of this neighborhood gathered around the campfire Monday morning of this week and formed the first girls health club ever organized in the county.

Healthy Hikers is the name they gave to it - - - - -

There's one little owl left who is always saying "Why?" He always wants to know the reason for everything. Occasionally he is the most important one of them all, and when you think he is, throw your pencil at him first.





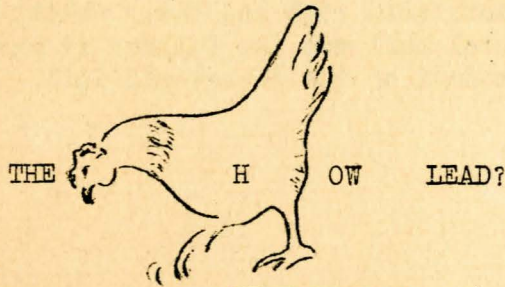
Because they have always made money raising pigs, the Curly Squealers club of Coyote precinct decided to raise pigs again this year. They organized the pig club last Thursday night, made arrangements to get their pigs, and are all ready to go for the year.

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Since everyone has been so interested in the Busy Sewers clothing club demonstration, the girls will give it over on Saturday afternoon at the city park.

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The old hen who is always scratching down to the bottom of things and bringing up the details of how things happen and how they come about is generally perfectly content to let you throw sticks at the owls, but occasionally she begins to cackle and then you better watch out. If something tells you that a story hinges upon some little point in it, and you get to thinking that the "How?" needs some attention, try writing the lead sentence something like one of these.



By illustrating every point in their methods of cattle feeding, the boys on the Nebraska champion demonstration team were able to convince the audience that feeding baby beef is more profitable than feeding older cattle.

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With every member doing his best to win the county championship honors, the competition among the boys and girls club here this year has been the keenest it has ever been, - - - - -

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Going into detail and studying the way others have written news stories, and then practicing writing stories ourselves is the only way to become good news writers, Elton Lux, Nebraska extension editor, who wrote this circular, tells the boys and girls in news writing contests at the close of his second monthly lesson.

The first lesson outlined some of the general principles of news writing, the second took up the first or lead sentences of stories and gave examples of how they might be written.

Twenty-four news writing contests are going in the state, six of them being sponsored by daily and 18 by weekly papers. Nebraska is the only state in the union to have such contests, altho boys and girls in other states are being helped with news writing.