



# TERRY FOX Lesson Plan

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## Sharing his story with your students

### **Lesson: Elements of a Newspaper Article - Part 1**

**Learning Goal:** Students will be able to identify different elements of expository writing and explain how these elements affect the reader's reaction to the text while developing a greater knowledge of Terry Fox, the Marathon of Hope and the upcoming Terry Fox events in their community.

#### **Materials/Media:**

- Appendix A: Terry Fox Prediction Activity
- Appendix B: Word Jot Activity
- Appendix C: A Shining Legacy of Hope
- Appendix D: With a Hop and a Hope, a Brave Lad became a Nation's Hero
- Appendix E: Elements of Newspaper Articles
- Appendix F: Exit Card
- Chart paper
- Markers

#### **Instructions:**

1. Complete minds-on activities: Appendix A: Terry Fox Prediction Activity and Appendix B: Word Jot Activity" (see instructions on sheets).
2. Read the article Appendix C: A Shining Legacy of Hope and discuss contents and elements of the text. In groups, have students look over the article titled, using Appendix D: With a Hop and a Hope, a Brave Lad became a Nation's Hero, create an anchor chart of the textual elements that are unique to newspaper articles. Use attached resource and prompt for additional elements. Discuss how individual elements affect the readers' reaction to a text, using these articles as examples.
3. Divide the class into groups, give each one a different element from the anchor chart and ask them to answer the question, "How does this element change the reader's reaction to the text?" Encourage them to support their answer using evidence from both of the TerryFox Articles. Consider presenting answers for class discussion.
4. Have students complete an exit card at the end of class (see instruction on sheet).

**Extension:** Ask students to do a short survey regarding the popularity of newspapers in today's society. Challenge students to find out why people like reading this type of text and why people prefer other types of text. Have students present their survey and results to the class.

**Assessment:** Use student responses from exit cards to assess their understanding of the basic concepts discussed in the lesson.

**Curriculum Expectations:**

*Reading*

- Analyse a variety of texts, including complex or difficult texts, and explain how the various elements in them contribute to meaning and influence the reader's reaction.

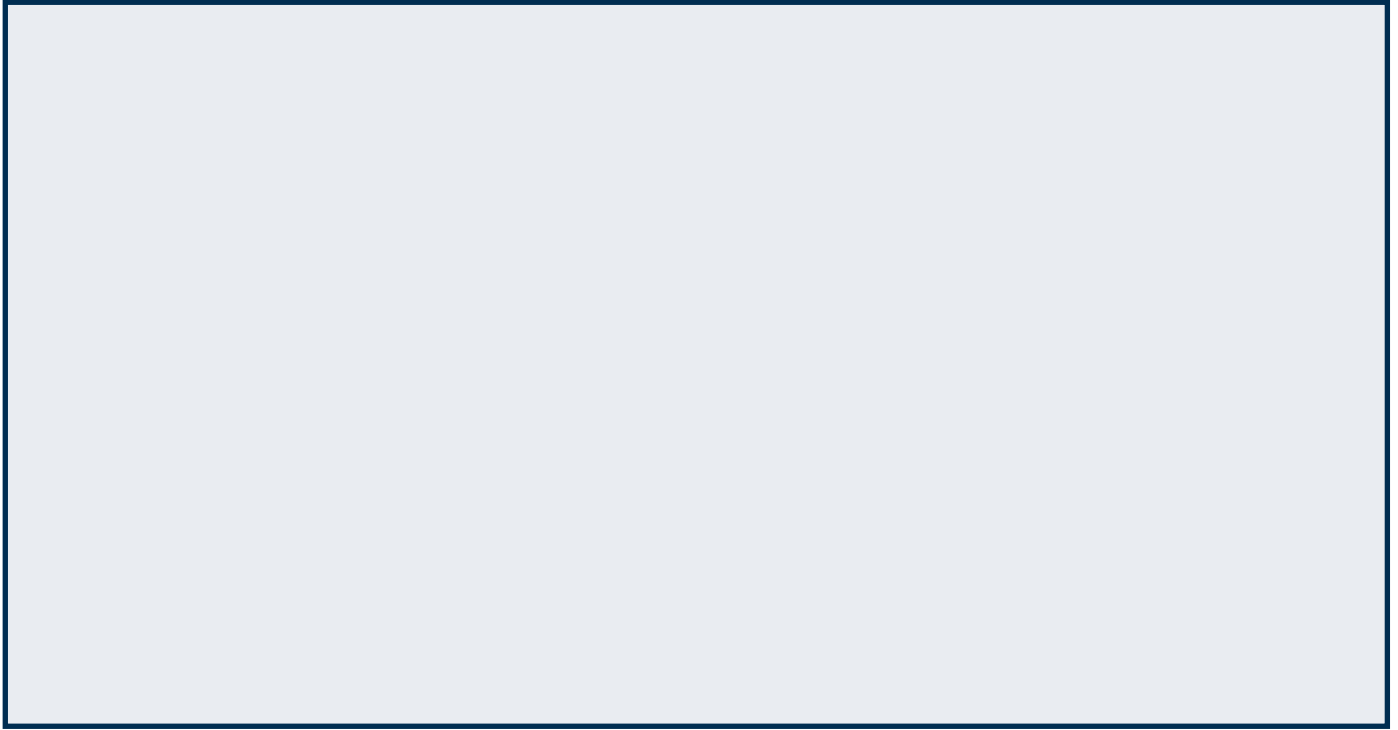
# Appendix A: Terry Fox Prediction Activity

Cut out the following word boxes and distribute to each student. Give students three minutes to move around the room and tell each other their word. The only word the student is allowed to say is the one on their paper. Then have them jot down as many words as they remember and make a prediction of what the text might be about.

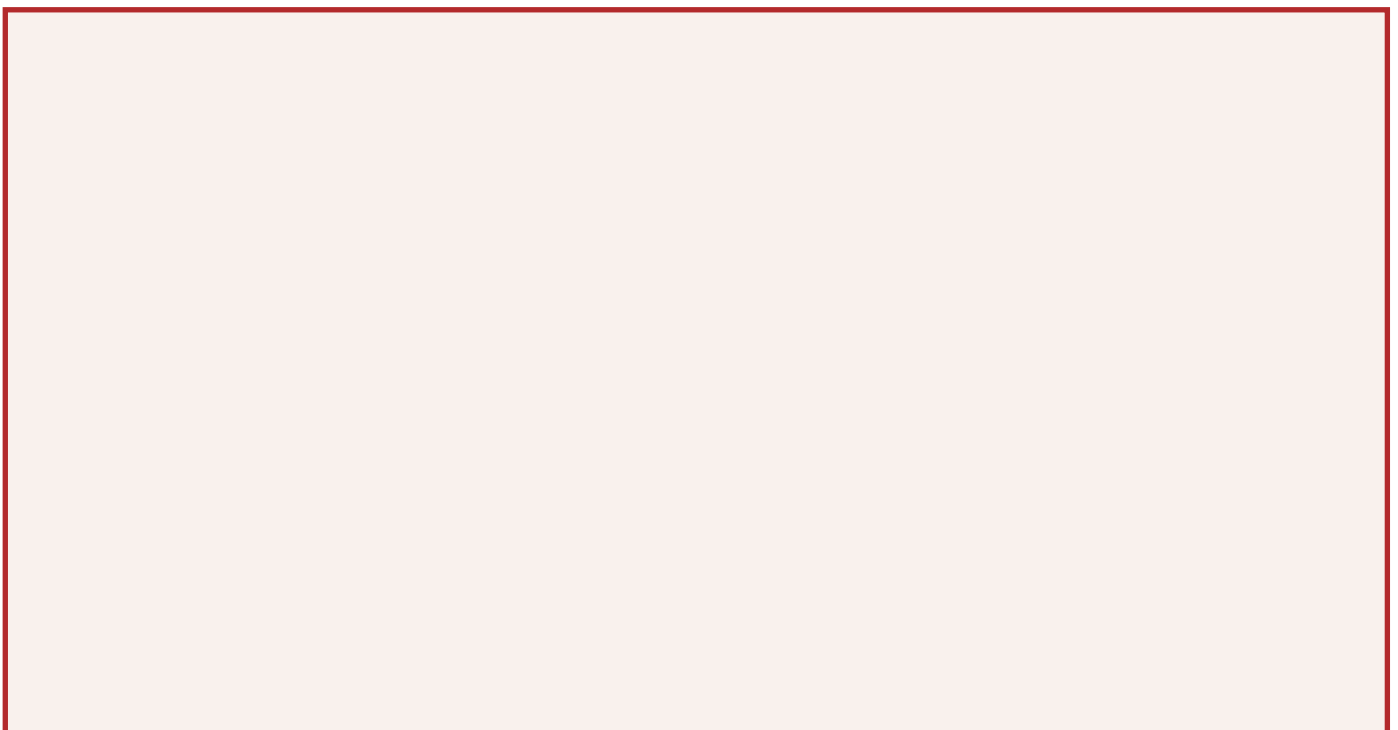
MARATHON	3,339	COURAGE	RESEARCH	ARTIFICIAL	GENEROSITY
JUNE 29	\$23 MILLION	22 YEARS OLD	RAISE MONEY	MEMORABLE LESSON	PORT COQUITLAM, BC
LEGACY	5,300	ILLNESS	1981	LEG	INSPIRATION
HOPE	MILES	IRON WILL	RUN	SHY	CANADIAN
QUIET SPOKEN	HERO	CHALLENGE	CANCER	GENUINE	DETERMINED

# Appendix B: Word Jot Activity

In the space below, jot down all the words you heard your fellow students said to you.



In the space below, make a prediction of what we will be discussing today.





## Appendix C: A Shining Legacy of Hope

# A shining legacy of hope.

The agonizing personal marathon of Terry Fox is finally over, cut short by the cancer that had so relentlessly stalked his young life. But in his brief time in the public eye, the shy, quiet-spoken 22-year-old from Port Coquitlam, B.C., touched the hearts of Canadians like few people before him.

He leaves us with a shining legacy of hope, a reason for renewed faith in the indomitability and generosity of the human spirit — and in the willingness of society to respond to those qualities.

With his magnificent one-legged run of 3,339 miles, and with the unprecedented public outpouring of emotion and money it engendered, Terry Fox taught us a memorable lesson: Even in today's complex world, a single individual with a worthy cause — and with sufficient courage, determination and generosity of spirit — can have enormous impact on the entire society around him.

Fox possessed those qualities of courage, determination and generosity in such measure that he became an embodiment of the way we would all like to see ourselves. He raised more than \$23 million for cancer research but, beyond that, he also raised our standards of personal excellence.

**Courage:** For anyone of perfectly sound body, a run of 5,300 miles from one Canadian coast to the other, through snowstorms and blistering heat, would be the most daunting of prospects to contemplate. We can scarcely guess at the courage it took for a physically slight young cancer

victim, hobbling along on one leg and an amputated stump fitted to an artificial limb, to undertake this challenge and persevere at it.

**Determination:** What most set Fox apart from the great mass of humanity was his iron will and determination. He yielded to nothing — not to the potentially crippling loss of his leg, not to the initial loneliness and the extremes of climate on his run, not to the pain of a stump worn raw and bleeding by the incessant battering of his artificial

limb across the miles, and not to the recurrence of a dreaded illness whose eventual outcome became all too clear months ago. "I'll fight," he characteristically vowed when cancer ended his run. "I promise I won't give up."

**Generosity:** Fox's run was, in one sense, intensely self-centred; he set out to prove more to himself than to anyone else. But he had the generosity to set his sights on a broader

good than merely his own self-discovery. Hopeful that his own illness had been arrested, he conceived of his run as a way to raise money — perhaps \$1 million, he thought — for research to aid other cancer patients. "Somewhere the hurting must stop," he said, "and I was determined to take myself to the limit for those causes."

Take himself to the limit he did, and he took us with him, to the very limit of admiration for the valor of a fellow human being. Terry Fox will live on in memory as a genuine Canadian hero and an inspiration to all who dare to believe in the essential power and dignity of the human individual.



TERRY FOX



# Appendix D: With a Hop and a Hope, a Brave Lad became a Nation's Hero

10 THE GLOBE AND MAIL, MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1981

Terry Fox

## With a hop and a hope, a brave lad became a nation's hero

Terry Fox ran a foot race against cancer that took him from the eastern shore of Newfoundland to a lonely stretch of highway in Northern Ontario, where the disease finally caught up with him. He was forced off the road near Thunder Bay, when it turned out that what had seemed to be a minor cold was the cancer that earlier had taken his leg and had now spread to his lungs.

It was the intention of Mr. Fox, who had lost his right leg above the knee to the disease when he was 18, to run every inch of the 5,200-mile span of Canada. Covering ground in a painful, running hop on an artificial limb that chafed and pained him with every step, it was a measure of his commitment that he covered 3,000 miles.

Mr. Fox, who came from a working-class family and progressed through school as a consistent B student, achieved renown through an extraordinary determination that caught the imagination and won the sympathy of millions in Canada and abroad.

During his run, which began in April, 1980, the story of Terry Fox became part of Canadian folklore. Mr. Fox had planned his Marathon of Hope as a personal odyssey. By the time he reached Toronto, it had turned into a national obsession.

A figure of only occasional interest as he plodded through the Atlantic provinces, almost ignored as he made his way through Quebec, Mr. Fox became a hero when he entered Ontario. The television networks, which had treated the early part of his run as a curiosity item, suddenly realized his intent was serious and his accomplishment noteworthy.

As he headed north from Toronto, his progress was charted almost daily on TV screens, his boyish good looks attracting admirers, his painful hop exciting sympathy and admiration. Newspaper stories chronicled the troubles he had with an artificial leg that kept wearing down as he followed the highway. All along the way, contributions poured in as he spread the word that he was trying to raise money for cancer research.

Children and housewives pressed money on him as he paused to rest at roadside diners. Service organizations, business firms and labor unions took up collections. He raised more than \$23-million for cancer research.

But he was not content to be merely the best fund-raiser in the history of the Canadian Cancer Society, which had sponsored his marathon. When cancer put an end to his run, he allowed the physicians who attended him to conduct experiments with chemicals and other new treatments in hopes of putting an end to cancer.

That he was able to put his life into the hands of physicians was a measure of Mr. Fox's courage and self-control. He had an abiding distrust for doctors, because the first occurrence of bone cancer had been misdiagnosed as a torn ligament.

While playing basketball at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, he had found his right knee swollen and painful. A physician who examined him prescribed painkillers, and it was only after the medication wore off and he was examined by a specialist that he learned he had cancer.

During his run, he ignored entreaties from cancer society officials to have regular medical checkups. It was only when he finally collapsed outside Thunder Bay that a doctor was allowed to examine him.

"Every doctor has a defensive attitude," Mr. Fox said in an interview just a few weeks before his run ended. "In case something goes wrong, they don't want to be held responsible, so they're very cautious. Before I started the run, one doctor said I was crazy, that I didn't have a chance of making it."

When Mr. Fox was first told he was going to lose his leg, he stayed up all night, crying inconsolably as he thought about never being able to play basketball again, never being able to run.

A few days after his operation, he read a magazine article about some-



Terry Fox is silhouetted in the lights of a police cruiser during a pre-dawn run near Hamilton.

one who had run 26 miles on one leg. When a family friend visited him, he tossed the magazine at him and said, "I can do that, too."

For the next 18 months, he endured chemotherapy as physicians tried to eradicate cancer cells that still remained after the amputation. The drugs made him sick, but he was determined to get out of his wheelchair and get on with his life.

First he had to learn to walk with an artificial leg, a collection of tubes and fabric that gave only a rough approximation of a natural limb's smooth motion. Then he taught himself to "run." What he did was reinvent running — two hops on his left

leg, one on his artificial leg.

He didn't return to university. In hospital, Mr. Fox had read the Bible, drawing from the Scriptures new meaning for his life and justification for his plan to run across Canada.

He was haunted by memories of the cancer ward. He remembered the suffering and the death, and he couldn't let it alone. As some point during his recovery, Mr. Fox's determination to recover his athletic abilities fused with his concern for fellow cancer victims.

Soon he became a familiar sight in his home town, Port Coquitlam. He learned to ignore the curious stares and rude comments his awkward gait

attracted as he paced through the streets of the Vancouver suburb.

In October, 1979, he began to lobby for support for his marathon. "I lost my right leg 2½ years ago to cancer," he said in a letter to the B.C.-Yukon branch of the Canadian Cancer Society. "I feel now is the time to make good my promise."

Society officials were doubtful, but Mr. Fox convinced them by weekly visits, always lobbying, always pushing. At that point, even his mother thought his idea was insane.

Mr. Fox was the second-eldest son in a close-knit family of four. Rolly Fox, a Canadian National Railways switchman, encouraged his children

to be fiercely competitive and his son Terry learned the lesson well.

A short, scrawny kid, he was discouraged by the school coach when he turned out for basketball practice in Grade 8. Try wrestling, the coach said. The boy stubbornly insisted that he'd stick to basketball.

Doug Alward, a chum who later accompanied Mr. Fox on his cross-country run, remembers when they first met in Grade 8. "He was always calling me, trying to get me to play basketball with him. I never wanted to, because he was such a rotten player. In a couple of years, he was pretty good. He was better than I was."

Mr. Fox took his sport, and himself, very seriously. By high school, he was a top basketball player, almost arrogant about his hard-won skills. "He was not a good loser," Doug Alward recalls. "He hated to lose. One time in high school I faked him out playing basketball one on one. He slammed the ball down on the floor and started shouting. Boy, was he mad."

The Marathon of Hope started in St. John's, with just Mr. Fox and Mr. Alward. By the time he reached Ontario, Mr. Fox had been joined by his brother Darrell, 18, as well as a collection of cancer society officials and a police escort. The crowds had grown so large and so demonstrative that sometimes Mr. Fox felt intimidated.

As he ran through cities and towns, people would line the road, calling out to him and trying to touch him. More than once, he was almost knocked down as an emotional woman admirer tried to embrace him while he was still in motion.

In Port Coquitlam, he'd dreamed of running down the highway while people applauded. The reality had exceeded the dream, and sometimes it was overwhelming. Outside Sault Ste. Marie, he complained in an interview that a surfeit of civic hospitality had deprived him of his normal quota of sleep.

He was irritable then, with the crowds surrounding him and his leg chafing. "It all builds up and adds up and adds up," he said of the crowds, the adulation and the pressure. "Some nights I never get a chance to relax. Then, when I try to sleep, I can't. I toss and turn for three hours before falling asleep. The next morning, I'm trying to run on five hours' sleep."

When his entourage remarked on his irritability, Mr. Fox said: "When you're as tired as I am, you have to take it out somewhere. When I'm travelling down that road and four or five people are travelling with me, I think they should make an effort, too. Sometimes things aren't done, and I get upset."

Before he reached the end of the road at Thunder Bay, Mr. Fox declared that in his own mind he'd already won the race. "I don't make it, it won't be because I gave up and quit," he said. "My stump may wear down, my back may wear out, my heart may give up. Who knows?"

On Sept. 1, he went into hospital in Thunder Bay, where he had a cold. On Sept. 2, physicians announced that the bone cancer had spread to his lungs. While cancer society official Bill Vickers wept, Mr. Fox told reporters at a press conference: "I'll do everything I can. I'm going to do my

very best. I'll promise, I won't give up."

Once again, the fight against cancer was one he had to wage from a hospital bed. The drugs he took to curb the cancer made his hair fall out. They made him so sick at times that he could not eat. One drug was so powerful that another drug had to be administered immediately afterward as an antidote or he would have died. For a time, doctors felt they were making progress. A tumor had receded in size.

But on Jan. 28, officials at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster announced that the cancer had spread past Mr. Fox's lungs to invade other parts of his body. Efforts to halt the spread of the disease with the controversial drug interferon failed.

On Feb. 2, Mr. Fox's doctors reported that eight rounds of painful chemotherapy had failed to stop the spread of the disease and they said only a miracle could save him.

Three weeks later, Mr. Fox again began receiving interferon, a highly experimental and unproven drug that doctors considered his last hope. His first experience with the drug caused an adverse reaction which was followed by chest surgery to drain fluids surrounding his heart.

Although hopes had been raised in early June that the drug had at last stopped the progress of the disease, Mr. Fox entered hospital again on June 19. After that, the end came quickly.

## Epic feat drew praise from millions

"Terry's example has... given new courage to those across the land who struggle against disease and infirmity," Governor-General Edward Schreyer said in September, when he invested the young runner as a Companion in the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian honor.

When Terry's Marathon of Hope took him back to a bed in a cancer ward, his achievements were applauded and honored by governments, sports organizations, newspaper editors and cancer researchers.

British Columbia conferred upon him the province's top honor, the Order of the Dogwood.

Newspaper editors in a poll by The Canadian Press news agency named him Canadian of the Year, the first non-politician to be so recognized since 1965.

One book has already been published about his run, and another is in the works. A documentary film is planned.

In Canada, he received the Lou Marsh award for outstanding athletic achievement in 1980. (During his run, Terry managed to break the 14-minute mile. Two-legged runners do well to run the mile in eight minutes.)

In the United States, the American Cancer Society gave him the Sword Award, its highest honor.

## THE MARATHON OF HOPE



## Fund continues to grow

When Terry Fox ended his run in Thunder Bay last Sept. 1, he had raised \$23 million for cancer research. The figure was to grow to more than \$23-million at last count including a CTV telethon that raised \$10-million.

From the funds raised in Terry's name, the Canadian Cancer Society sponsors four different special cancer research programs. Recently, nine Canadian medical schools and four university scientists were awarded a total of more than \$4 million to pursue innovative cancer research activities.

In March, the British Columbia Government announced it would sponsor the multi-million dollar development of a laboratory for the production of interferon.

The Canadian Cancer Society, along with an amateur sports organization, a hotel chain and the federal Government, will coordinate a national Terry Fox Run for the Marathon of Hope on Sept. 13. More than three-million Canadians from more than 600 cities and towns are expected to take part in raising additional funds for cancer research.

# Appendix E: Elements of Newspaper Articles

**Most important facts first**

**5Ws: Who - What - Where - Why - When & How  
(usually in the first paragraph)**

**Sort and to the point paragraphs**

**Start a new paragraph each time there  
is a quote or new information**

**Modular design (page made up of rectangles)**

**Most pages have both text and graphics**

**Headlines bold and above the story**

**Headlines grab attention**

**Standard page has four columns of similar width**

**Limited gaps (white space)**

**Photos used to attract attention**

**Short meaningful quotes**

**Writer's name give article more credit**

**Cropped photos**

**Photos have a caption and photo credit**

## Appendix F: Exit Card

What element of a newspaper story most affects the reader's reaction to the text and why?



What element of a newspaper story most affects the reader's reaction to the text and why?

