Think ... Investigate ... Write ... Capture ... Publish ... Convey...

Young Reporters for the environment
How do we share news?
Formats used for sharing news?

Articles, Photos and Videos
What is a Reporter?

A reporter is a person who collects, writes, photographs, processes, edits or comments on news or other topical information to the public.

What is investigative journalism?

A form of journalism in which reporters deeply investigate through research and planning a single topic of interest.
Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE)

Aims to empower young people to take a stand on local sustainable development issues they feel strongly about.

Provide a platform to articulate these issues through the media of writing, photography or video.
The 4 pillars of YRE

Investigate

Disseminate

Report

Research solutions
STATS AND FIGURES 2021
YRE gives young people aged 11-25 a platform to research environmental issues and promote solutions through investigative reporting, photography, and video journalism.
Operated by Foundation for Environmental Education

44 countries run the YRE programme
5.5 million people reached
454,724 students involved
15,803 teachers involved

YRE Competition 2021
11,327 photos submitted nationally
1,416 videos submitted nationally
6,640 articles submitted nationally
4,292 registered schools involved
19,330 journalistic items produced

Local Projects

International Awards

Types of Projects

The article must not be longer than 1000 words and should include a title. 3 photos, graphs or drawings may be added to support the article.

The photo (or a series of 3-5 photos) should be of good quality. A short text (50 words max.) can be used to explain the link between the photo and sustainable development.

The video clip should not be longer than 3 mins, and feature a local investigation / campaign.
Articles

Need not forgetting our ‘White Gold’ pans at Marsascala

Walking along Marsascala coast line towards St. Thomas Bay in Malta, one immediately spots huge rectangular rock-cut basins which arouse lots of curiosity in non-Mediterranean tourists visiting our country. In Malta we call them ‘Salin’ an Italian word referring to salt-pans, into which we pump sea water for salt production. The salt-pans of Marsascala date probably back to Roman times and they need continuous protection, restoration and conservation. Mr. Zoren Darrinan is in charge of only one patch area of these Marsascala salt-pans and on consulting him he said: “It’s a pity that most of our Marsascala salt-pans got abandoned and authorities should do something to rehabilitate them as they can produce lots of good genuine salt.”

Salt production in Malta reached its peak during the Knights’ period as our... (Continued)

From iWant to E-waste, the Footprint of our Digital Age

Everybody loves a new gadget. Electronics have taken the centre stage under the Christmas tree, with the newest smartphones and tablets rocketing to the top of wish lists. But as new electronics are unwrapped and joyfully exhibited, the older gadgets, which were last years’ “lime light” devices, are forgotten, collecting dust until eventually they are... (Continued)

The Rubble Trouble?

San Anton School

Snakes, hedgehogs and snails are up in arms! The rubble walls that provided a safe haven came rain or shine are now in a steady decline. An area behind the Riviera Hotel in Marfa is a case in point.

The area once a barren... (Continued)
News Articles
News

News itself is what occurs, what takes place. You are perhaps referring to ‘a piece of news’ which is a write up on an event that has just taken place.

News is much more current than article, and need not give all aspects or analysis of the subject; it is the essence of what has taken place. Hence time is of the essence.

You need to provide all facts accurately using least possible words.

Articles

A write up on a subject. It gives information about it in an organized manner. Often the article analyses different aspect or issues involved.

Some people to refer to articles as feature stories. Discusses particular themes of interest and allows for articulation of arguments.

Articles appear in newspapers, magazines, trade publication, journals, and even in books.
Injury setback fails to derail Richard’s year

Paul Grech

In athletics, perhaps more than any other sport, injuries tend to be the determining factor in one’s career. Success is all down to the health of an athlete’s body and muscles. It is why an injury can be devastating, forcing athletes sometimes to write off a whole season. And it is why the achievements of 16-year-old sprinter Janet Richard over the past few months, which came despite an ill-timed injury, are all the more admirable.

“Yes, it was quite challenging, both mentally and emotionally not to mention physically,” she admitted, talking about her experience this year.

The injury came at a very bad time as I was training for the European Youth Olympic Trials in Baku and so my training sessions were very important.

“On a number of occasions I had to stop halfway through my sessions because I would start feeling pain in my hamstring and this would really frustrate me as I am not one who enjoys training less than I meant to.

“This would really get to me emotionally and I would get very upset. Though I did my best to get it treated, the pain persisted and I ended up missing out on the Youth Olympic Trials even though I had already qualified for the competition.

“The fact that at the same time she was preparing for her Matsec exams with the inevitable pressure that this brings with it, didn’t help.

“At the time I was also preparing for the National Championships,” she added.

“I also had to miss out on these as I was still not at my best. This was very difficult for me but I still went to the track to support my fellow athletes.”

The injury prevented Richard from achieving her two main goals of the season – representing Malta at the European Olympic Trials in Baku and becoming the national champion at 400m. So, it is remarkable that her season can still be considered a success.

“One of her most impressive performances came in the 2014 FISEC Games where she won the gold medal in the 400m, running the distance in an impressive 56.38.

“Obviously, I was very happy but mostly surprised as I was not expecting to run the time that I did,” she said.

“This result came at exactly the right moment since my season was not going as planned and this really motivated me.”

During those same Games she also won silver in the 200m.

Richard also made the trip to Toblisi in Georgia for the Third League of the European Team Championships. There, despite being the youngest member of the Maltese squad, she incredibly managed to secure maximum points for the team after winning her heat and being declared winner of the 400m race.

Notwithstanding the suspicion that her status as overall winner of the event was due to an official make-up, victory in her heat was still an encouraging result for an athlete who was expected to make the trip largely to gain experience.

“Winning that race was one of my proudest moments. I could not have been happier as it was so unexpected,” she recalled.

This capped a season that also included participation in the World Junior Championships in Azerbaijan which are to be included in the inaugural European Games,” Richard said.

“Next year is a very important one for Maltese athletics as there are many major international competitions in particular the 2015 GSSE in Iceland and the 2015 European Team Championships.”

Eugene, USA. Now, however, her thoughts are wholly focused on next season.

“I am also training to qualify for the 2015 IAAF World Youth Championships which are to take place in Colombia. I hope to gain automatic qualification for this competition.”
Same Layout ... Different content
Preparing to write a good article
Planning (1): Theme

Choose an environmental theme you have at heart or that interests you. This will help you enjoy what you are doing.

Most of the times we also have partners who can help you in the theme you choose.
Planning (2): Desired Outcome

You need to think about:

• Who are you writing for (target audience)
• What medium you will be using
• Visuals that you will be needing
• How will you disseminate your work
Planning (3): Research

Do research on the theme you have chosen:

• Current situation
• Local and global aspects
• Data
• People/Agencies/Organisations working in the field who can help
• Different stakeholders who might have an interest
• Ongoing initiatives/Previous literature
• Underlying problems and proposed solutions
Planning (4): Make a schedule

Make a plan on how you are:

• Going to schedule interviews
• Take photos
• Start writing and how long it will take you
• Note down any deadlines

This will help you distribute your work better and avoid last minute panicking
How To Write An Article
The Layout

Title – Grab the readers attention.

Introduction – Keep readers hooked by introducing in the general topic of your article.

Body – Articulate arguments while presenting data and facts.

Conclusion - Reconnect to the introduction and leave memorable message for the reader (food for thought).
Catchy Headline

Make sure that you chose a catchy headline to draw the reader’s attention. Many people will read an article if they are intrigued by the headline.

The headline should be related to your chosen theme but should be used to create curiosity rather than giving the whole information.

For YRE article the title should not be longer than 140 characters!!!!!
A good introduction:

1. Open with a first sentence that is short and strong
2. Say something unexpected ... something unique
3. Do not repeat the title but set the stage for the rest of the article
4. Keep it brief and simple – readers have a short attention span
5. 1-2 sentences to explain what the article is about
6. 1-2 sentences why the article is important

[Refer to a concern readers might have and throw in a statistic/fact]
A good introduction:

In a journalistic article, the introduction (first paragraph) is referred to as the leading paragraph [Lead]. Most writers use the 5Ws +1H to create a strong lead.
A good introduction:

“Man aged 20 gets caught stealing jewellery by breaking in on Thursday night from Tesco store in Lovehill, London. After questioning the man told the police he did not have much money and wanted to get a birthday present for his wife.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>Man aged 20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What?</td>
<td>Got caught stealing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When?</td>
<td>Thursday night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
<td>Get birthday present for wife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How?</td>
<td>Breaking in shop – questioning by police</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Still leaves unanswered question and curiosity
Body:

1. Keep paragraphs short and to the point.
2. Do not use very long sentences.
3. Do not write in first person.
4. Research issues and possible solutions.
5. Outline facts and information (use references).
6. Use quotes from sources and interviews.
7. Provide a balanced story (different perspectives from different reliable stakeholders).
8. Engage readers on an emotional level.
10. Proof read your work.
Concluding your article:

1. Be real and make it short.
2. Give the readers something to think about.
3. Avoid repetition.
4. Issue a challenge.
5. Point to the future.
6. Can end by posing a question.

It’s a shame that 70,000,000 litres of surface run-off water is wasted and not being wisely used considering that water in Malta is a limited resource with an average of 547mm of rainfall in 85 days a year.
Local Past Entries

The Folly of Developing New Fuel Stations

Malta currently has 14 development applications for fuel stations on land which is classified as Outside Development Zone. Nine of these are new stations and five are to replace those found in urban areas. All these new developments will consume 46,500m² of land in addition to the already 78 fuel stations which are operating today.

The argument for new fuel stations is based upon the ever-increasing number of registered vehicles, which in December 2018 stood at 385,326. In the last quarter of 2018, 69 vehicles per day were newly licensed. 78% of all vehicles are passenger cars with the total number of electric powered cars being 926, making up less than 0.3%. Maltese have the third highest number of cars per 1,000 inhabitants in the EU as well as the third highest share of cars which are 20 years or older.

Fuel station developments are decreasing Malta’s already lack of open space, with 30% of the total country surface developed. In particular, station development promotes a business which is predicted to decline significantly in the coming 20 years as Malta follows Europe in the banning of new fossil-fuel cars. This will mean fewer station customers spread over greater businesses, resulting in lower income and potential closures. Once new land is developed, then it is unlikely that land will be converted back to its original state for the benefit of all.

Transport is one of the few sectors in the EU where emissions are growing. The EU believes that electric vehicle uptake is the main solution to halt this trend.

France and the United Kingdom by 2040, as well as non-European countries such as India and China by 2040.

Malta is also considering this with the Environment Minister quoted as stating “a ban on the sale of diesel and petrol cars could come into effect much closer than 2040.”

To mirror this shift in demand, all major manufacturers have hybrid or electric car models in their portfolio and plan to have a full electric model range soon.

Malta is more suited for the adoption of electric vehicles due to its small size and therefore shorter distances. Indeed, the Government has issued incentives for electric car purchasing and electric car sharing.

In this context, there are only very short-term benefits to building further stations and significant long-term issues. There needs to be a longer-term, holistic examination of transport-related policies, which include the use and type of passenger vehicles. Any new policies should seek to promote sustainability, thereby reducing the number of cars on our roads but also the type of cars, thus reducing Malta’s CO₂ footprint and the infrastructure required.

A 3,000m² service station in Burmarrad, St. Paul’s Bay is now complete. It was constructed in an area designated as agriculturally important in Malta’s North West Local Plan and Outside of a Development Zone. This fuel station’s planning application was permitted on the grounds that it was in an Area of Containment, next to a commercial establishment. The Government’s Fuel

Photo 1 - Agricultural Land Taken to Feed Cars. Instead of People - New Stations Sent "Through to Security Fence Just Prior to Opening"

Photo 2 - Fuel pumps located on pavement in Malta, reflected through the mirror of an electric car

Naxxar is the third most populous town in Malta. It’s main road has 12 fuel stations nestled amongst the shops and terraced houses. The Government introduced a policy which encouraged moving urban stations to relocate, which has a number of safety benefits. However, this increases the urban sprawl outside of town. As there are already fuel stations to the west and south of Naxxar, both town centre stations could be closed down.

There is a new run of yet-to-be-developed sites in Magħtab, earmarked for the move of an existing station out of the centre of Naxxar. After an application in 2014 was turned down, an appeal led to this being overturned and the application was approved.
What can we write about?
In house activities
The Truth about Tourism in Malta

Miles Spooner 9.1

After investigating and asking questions to many different people such as tourists, residents, locals and more in Marsaxlokk, I found the truth about Tourism in Malta.

Most Maltese citizens and locals are very accepting and fond of tourists. “They leave a lot of good things after them” according to a local Marsaxlokk resident. They told us that they are vital for the Maltese economy. Most of them don’t mind the tourists at all and some people we asked just had minor problems with tourists like pollution or noise. However, they stated that because of the amount of tourists we are overcrowded and similar to this issue was the fact that there are too many buildings and not enough fields/greenery.

According to tourists I interviewed, their favourite places in Malta were the capital city, Valletta and Marsaxlokk. They stated that the climate was the main reason why they visited and the only thing they think Malta lacks is agriculture. They also liked the accessibility of Malta. Restaurant owners of Marsaxlokk told us that the local people and tourists at their establishment prefer local food. They also stated that the way of advertising their restaurant is to be recommended by local people.

- Investigate a theme through own bubbles
- Conduct online interviews / questionnaires
- Work together (bubbles or online) to finalise a common report.
A children’s plan for peace

Wednesday, 9 December 2015, 10:09   Last update: about 7 years ago

Matthew Schembris, Kristina Caronia and Luca Caruana from St Ignatius College Middle School Hndaq had an opportunity, through the Young Reporters for the Environment programme, to attend the Commonwealth People’s Forum and to interview Indian scholar, environmental activist and anti-globalization author Dr Vandana Shiva.

Reporting events

Each one of you has to find your own way. In what you love doing. If I love music I will find a way to create music and play music. Or writing. Or football. Every child should know there is no hierarchy in what we do. It’s a horizontal humanity. A farmer. A Wall Street financier. We are all expert human beings.

The second thing - you don’t need to look outside to get a short term job for money. Rather look inside yourself and say this is what I’m good at. This is what I love doing. And I will bargain and create conditions so that my passion will find a place in society even if it does not exist. That is, where seed banks started - they were my passion. There were no organic movements in India when I started. It’s not easy. But if you do something that goes against yourself you will suffer anyway. And that is stress, making money for the speculators.
Is sustainability a joke for our education authorities? - Isaac Sam Camilleri

Junior College's use of plastic does not bode well

May 1, 2021 | Times of Malta | 0
3 min read

Plastic-wrapped tables and chairs at Junior College.

Junior College, a post-secondary college established by the University of Malta, this year decided to cover the school's common area chairs and benches with plastic to prevent students from sitting on them to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Paper wristbands were also introduced to monitor students entering the campus.

When I saw this, I sent an email to the Junior College administration to meet a
The folly of developing new fuel stations - Elise Muscat

Fuel pumps located on a pavement in Mosta.

Malta currently has 14 development applications for fuel stations on land, which is classified as an environmentally sensitive area. This has raised concerns among environmentalists and residents about the impact on the local ecosystem and the potential for accidents and spills.

Church sets eco-friendly example

The church has installed solar panels on the roof as a way to reduce its carbon footprint and demonstrate commitment to sustainability. This initiative not only saves money on energy bills but also contributes to the global effort to combat climate change.

Sun spots

- Solar energy is a clean source of power that does not emit greenhouse gases.
- Solar panels can be installed on rooftops or other suitable surfaces.
- There are various types of solar panels available, such as photovoltaic (PV) and concentrating solar power (CSP).
- The technology is becoming more efficient and cost-effective, making it a viable option for both residential and commercial use.
A Big Hole in the Ground

During these coronavirus days I have taken time to jog around the countryside of Hal Far. It never fails to amaze me that just in the most pristine views of the cliffs, you get a massive hole, a gaping toothless massive grave. I saw a farmer chugging along in his tractor, where he remained during the whole conversation. He (Angelo) turned out to be a part time farmer living on a farm just up the winding road. His full time employment is in the construction industry and this is what I managed to obtain as information:

Malta: Limestone country

Limestone is the only mineral resource that can be exploited in Malta. It has been quarried and used for construction since the beginning of time: look at the oldest temples in the world and to the dry stone rubble walls outlining fields. Most Maltese buildings (churches and houses) are constructed out of the softer Globigerina limestone, giving the country its

Research on under-used college water fountains

Why do only half of Junior College students feel comfortable using them?

榑

Junior College students’ complaints included inadequate water pressure from the taps and discolouration of the water. Photo: Shemardzik

As an entry for the Young Innovators of the Environment project conducted eight years ago to set up water fountains around the Junior college grounds, the water fountains, of which there are now four, are free for all visitors to use. We wanted to assess the state of the fountain’s and students’ perceptions towards them. The research was conducted via an online survey in which 520 students (38.4% of the college’s student population) took part.

The free source of drinking water gave many students an alternative to carrying or buying water bottles daily. The fountain served as a cost-effective and environmentally safer alternative to single use water bottles.

They offered a more efficient way for students to hydrate or refill bottles between lectures rather than such in long queues at the canteen. The water fountain initiative was well received initially and was seen as an eco-friendly way to help reduce a considerable amount of plastic water bottles generated by the college.

However, the survey revealed that over 42% of students said they were uncomfortable with the idea of using them for various reasons. The students’ most common concern was the fountain’s appearance and unsanitary appearance. This was caused due to their outdoor placing and their exposure to natural elements such as dust and bird excreta. Other issues mentioned included inadequate water pressure from the taps and discolouration of the water.

When these complaints were brought to the attention of the Junior College administration, the latter asserted that maintenance was done every three
1. Is your article 1000 words or less and in English?
2. Does it have a title?
3. Does it have 1-3 images, for example, photographs, illustrations, diagrams?
4. Does your article have an introduction paragraph, a body (supporting paragraphs) and a conclusion paragraph?
5. Does your article answer the basic journalism questions of who, what, where, why, when, and how?
6. If you included facts, statistics or other information (which you should!), did you get that information from real and reliable sources?
7. Do you cite all the sources you used in a bibliography at the end?
8. Do you explore the historical, economic, social, and/or political implications of your topic through an environmental lens?
9. Do you show a link between local and global issues or events?
10. Do you identify realistic solutions to the environmental problems you present in your article?
11. Did you choose an original topic or approach a topic in a new and creative way?
12. Did you conduct interviews and leave your school to conduct fieldwork?
13. Did you share your article:
   a) Through your own social media channels?
   b) At your school?
   c) With your National Operator?
   d) With your local or national newspapers, radio stations or TV channels?
14. If you shared your article, do you have evidence of this to give to your National Operator?
Environmental journalists wanted!

Do you have what it takes?