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Be Your Own Good News Author

By Lee Wise

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Author: Lee Wise

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BE YOUR OWN GOOD NEWS AUTHOR

Creating Good News Headlines In An Often Not-So-Good World

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"READ ALL ABOUT IT!"

In the world of literature headlines are designed to draw our attention to the product, service or event the author wants us to focus our attention on at any given moment.

Headlines are designed to cause us to internalize a variety of responses. Maybe even some like these:

"I wonder if this is true? I'll check it out."

"That's right! I identify. Those other wacky diets have failed me too. I'm going to look into this."

"Good heavens: that's awful. How could anyone think that way?"

"My mom sure could use this. I mean, all these people can't be wrong... right?"

"It's only that much?"

"That's interesting."

"I would like to be feel that way -- just once."

"I admire that type of person."

A good headline, in other words, causes us to respond. We become engaged at a different level with the author because he or she got our attention.

A good headline can be powerful.

Now hold on to that thought while I redirect your attention to the idea of...

CREATING YOUR HEADLINE FOR THIS COMING WEEK

"Create your own headline -- what are you talking about?"

I'm talking about creating your own "good news" headline for the week. A mental filter that will cause you to focus your attention on the good things around you.

That's right: the good events. The common, everyday stories of people who are doing and saying things that bring beauty into our world.

The wife who gently kisses her child in a grocery store after work -- even though she is exhausted.

The laughter you hear down the hall because someone is a bright individual and others relate to him or her.

The person you work with who takes time to write a sincere note of thanks for a seemingly small act on your part.

The phone call that meant so much.

The friend who loaned you his car while yours was being repaired.

The good news you heard on the television.

A QUESTION FOR YOU

What title could *you* give to a headline that would cause you to *actually see* the small, and not-so-small, good around you for a short period of time?

"How about a few examples?" I hear you ask.

Sure. Not a problem ;-)

"Caught in the act of doing good"

"Scores of people encouraging others"

"Parents helping their kids"

"So many good things it's hard to keep track!"

"The little things do get noticed!"

"Kindness seen in the most obvious places"

"Needs being met in every section of town"

"Good news in the news!"

Think with me for a moment...

If you were to write a short story filled with examples that would fit the headlines listed above -- examples from your everyday world, -- you would have to look for them, wouldn't you?

And that's precisely the idea.

SOMETIMES LIFE JUST AIN'T PRETTY

Before you ask why I'm suggesting this, I will tell you: sometimes the world is not a pretty place.

I have in front of me a newspaper, and I am reading headlines like these...

"Feds targeting prescription fakes."

"Pakistan kills 12 in al-Qaida bunker"

"Weekly Iraq toll: 3-6 killed, 40 hurt"

"Parents face charges in duct-taping"

In spite of these headlines, however, there is good in the world.

Good people doing good things.
Good people saying good things.

Everyday.
In your world and in mine.

My purpose in suggesting this exercise is simple...

I WANTED US TAKE NOTE OF THE GOOD WE OFTEN MISS

Creating our own "headlines" for the day or week is an

idea to help us draw our attention to the brighter side of life.

In my way of thinking...

"It's always good to see the good."

WHAT WILL YOU SEE?

Time to create your own "good news" headline for this week.

Your headline will be _____

When you will begin _____

When you will end _____

Remember: "What you see is what you get."

Yours for a day filled with beautiful moments in time,

Lee

Lee is a seminary administrator, has a part-time business at home, and writes two motivational ezines: "A Beautiful Moment In Time" and "Hope For Daily Living." Permission is given to distribute article. This paragraph must be included. Email: Lee@seariches.net
Link: <http://www.seariches.net>

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Understanding Fair Use Rights

By Rose DesRochers

What is copyright? Copyright is defined as "The legal protection given to authors which protects them against unauthorized copying of their work." Copyright infringement is defined as "a violation of the rights secured by a copyright."

All writers at one time or another have quoted something someone else has written. I see it all the time throughout the writing industry. Maybe you quoted the lines of a poem or a line from an article or the words from a song. I quoted the work of another author in the above paragraph, where I defined copyright. Given my example in the opening paragraph, did I just infringe on the author's copyright? Should I have gotten permission from the said author to quote them? No, under what is known as "fair use", I may quote the author without seeking permission.

There is a misconception in the writing world about what fair use is. Fair use is defined as "a concept in copyright law that allows limited use of copyright material without requiring permission from the rights holders, eg, for scholarship or review."

If you were to publish an author's article in its full entirety without seeking permission from that author you would be violating their copyright even if you credited the author and provided a link to the source of the article. Quoting two lines from the news article with a link to the entire article would be considered fair use. Except for the facts in the article, news articles are protected under copyright laws. So when are you allowed the right to fair use? Fair use is allowed for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research.

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