

ROSA PARKS



Montgomery Bus Boycott!!!

Learning Objectives:

- To adapt writing to suit purpose
- To write in the past tense
- To establish context in the first paragraph: Who, what, when, where, why

Background to the 'Bus Boycott'

- In 1955, African Americans were still required by law in Alabama to sit in the back half of city buses and to give up their seats to white riders in the front half of the bus, reserved for whites, was full.
- On December 1, 1955, African American seamstress [Rosa Parks](#) was commuting home on Montgomery's Cleveland Avenue bus from her job at a local department store. She was seated in the front row of the 'colored section'. When the white seats filled, the driver, J. Fred Blake, asked Parks and three others to vacate their seats. The other black riders moved, but Parks refused.
- She was arrested and fined \$10, plus \$4 in court fees.

Background to the 'Bus Boycott'

- The Women's Political Council (WPC), a group of black women working for civil rights, began circulating leaflets calling for a boycott of the bus system on December 5, the day Parks would be tried in municipal court. The boycott was organized by WPC President [Jo Ann Robinson](#) who contacted Martin Luther King (MLK) to help.
- Approximately 40,000 black bus riders—the majority of the city's bus riders—boycotted the system the next day; December 5. Black leaders met and elected [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#), the 26-year-old-pastor of Montgomery's [Dexter Avenue Baptist Church](#), as its president. They collectively decided to continue the boycott until the city met its demands. At this point, no one knew how long this 'Bus Boycott' would last.

Writing a Newspaper article

You will need to: **How to make your newspaper article successful:**

- Create a **'Headline'** – one that catches the reader's attention
- **First paragraph** - gives main point of the story; a context - (who, what, when, where, why)
- **Second Paragraph** – extend detail; give the background to Rosa's actions, her arrest. Reference what people said (2 quotes - direct speech in inverted commas – try and use actual quotes)
- **Third Paragraph** – Conclusion. What has happened in the last week as a result of Rosa's actions i.e 'Leaders meeting, organising a bus boycott... You will need to end your 3rd paragraph with a rhetorical question/questions e.g 'How long will this boycott last? Will Rosa Parks' action change the law in Alabama?'
- **REMEMBER: You must use 'Past tense' for a recount – your article is about something that took place a week ago; it refers to something which has already taken place.**

Task 1 - Plan

Rosa Parks - the Montgomery Bus boycott

Two Possible Headlines

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

Possible quotes

The Montgomery Messenger

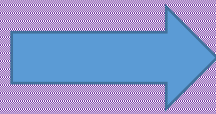
8th December
1955

This lady is not for moving!

Where

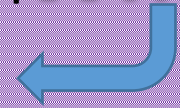


When

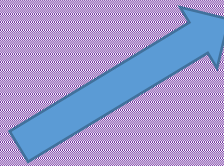


A week ago on December 1st in Montgomery, Alabama, a small action by an African-American lady called Rosa Parks sparked a huge reaction in the black community in

What



Who



Montgomery. Mrs. Parks broke the law and refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger, despite being asked by the driver Mr. J Fred Blake to move. This led to Mrs. Parks being arrested and charged with 'Disorderly conduct'. Upon being asked why she had refused to follow the law, Mrs. Parks said that she feels the segregation laws in Montgomery need to be changed. She stated 'I knew someone had to take the first step and I made up my mind not to move'.

Why

