Name:_____ Date:_____

# Hot Off the Presses

**Newspapers cover everything from presidential elections to the world's largest house cat, but every article has a few things in common, like the headline. Newspaper articles begin with the most important information, including Who, What, When, Where, and Why. Then, supporting details are added as the story continues. In this activity, we will guide you through the steps of writing a newspaper article of Robert Smalls' daring escape described in "Freedom *or* Death."**

**Directions:** Using the template below as a guide, write a newspaper article describing the events of the day when Robert Smalls and his crew hijacked a Southern ship, the *Planter*, to escape slavery.

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**HEADLINE:**
**What's a quick, accurate title for the story?**

**FIRST PARAGRAPH:**
**Answer the 5 W's.**
(**Hint:** Who was on the ship? What was the ship called? What did Smalls and his crew do with it? When did the event happen? Where was the ship first, and where did they take it? Why did they take the ship?)

*Continued*

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# Hot Off the Presses, continued

**SECOND PARAGRAPH:**
**Give supporting details.**
Fill out the story with the details you find interesting and useful.
(**Hint:** This might include questions such as, Who else came on the ship? How did Robert Smalls trick the other boats? How did the Southern boats respond? Did Smalls and his crew succeed in their goal? How did the Northern boats respond?)

**CONCLUSION:**
**Wrap up your story.**
Restate the main point of your article and explain why the story is important for your readers to know.

## Critical Thinking

On a separate piece of paper or on the Robert Smalls Contest form from the *Storyworks* Web site, rewrite your newspaper article, including the headline and your name as the writer.