News Writing Exercise

**Assignment:**

* The exercise is based on the following invented “facts”; you may also collect real information to amplify on these facts
* Identify the “news” suggested by the facts
* Write a lead for a news story
* Identify which information you would include in the rest of the story (by paragraph and in what order) for a story of 300-400 words, 7-10 paragraphs
* You do not have to use all the facts
* Prepare at least two direct, indirect or partial quotes (including attribution tags) for your story
* Write a headline for the news story
* If you want, you may write the full news story

**Learning Goals:**

* Identify what the “news” is
* Identify relevant information that should be included in story; disregard unimportant information
* Select and edit quotes to create compelling quotes
* Use indirect quotes, as necessary
* Create compelling lead
* Order information in a logical and appropriate way
* Use correct grammar, diction and tense
* Use style appropriate to a news story

**“Facts”:**

* Institute of Ornithology wins International Ornithology Association (IOA) Prize
* Institute is known as IOO
* Prize awarded for research study: “The Projected Effects of Climate Change on Migration Habits of North Asian Water Fowl”
* The study was published in the Nov. 10, 2012 issue of *Science*
* Institute of Ornithology founded in Nanjing in 1935, later moved to the Zhongguancun area of Beijing in 1955
* IOO recently built a new 15-story building in Beijing that famed European architect Ulrike Linhof has called, “a gem of eco-friendly and aspirational composition.”
* The Prize is the highest international prize in the field of ornithology.
* The research for which the prize was awarded was conducted from 2007-2011, in Guangdong, Zhejiang, Shandong, Liaoning, Shanghai and Jiangsu. A limited amount of research was done in Hubei.
* Most of the research was conducted in wetlands
* Altogether, 25 scientists from IOO participated in the research
* According to the IOA Website: “The IOA Prize honors cutting-edge research that advances the field of ornithology and has significance for the larger world.”
* About 250 people attended the ceremony
* IOO has 987 employees; 47 percent of employees are senior-level scientists with a Ph.D. or Master’s degree
* The International Ornithology Association has more than 1,700 members, based in universities and institutes all over the world, but mainly in Europe, Asia and North America. It is working to expand its reach into Africa and South America.
* Many climate scientists fear that the average global temperature could rise by four degrees Celsius by 2100
* The link between ornithology and ecology is one of the cutting-edge areas of the field of ornithology
* IOO is building a new RMB 30-million lab CAS key lab devoted to the study of migratory habits of North Asian waterfowl. The lab will be completed in 2014.
* Two hundred workers are employed by IOO
* The ceremony was held at 9:00 a.m., Sept. 12, 2013
* The president of the International Ornithology Association (IOA) presented the prize
* IOO has a museum of migratory North Asian waterfowl
* The president of the IOA is Prof. Annika Steinberg of the Ornithology Lab at Cornell University
* The remaining employees have a bachelor’s degree
* H7N9 has been linked to North Asian waterfowl
* “Happy\_fun\_life,” an account holder on Sina Weibo, said in May that the Chinese government should control water fowl since they may be responsible for H7N9
* Quote by Prof. Wang XX, director of IOO: “I would like to thank the International Ornithology Association for awarding IOO this prize. We are very proud of this recognition. It is a great honor for our institute and we will try to continuously be worthy of this honor.”
* Quote by Prof. Liu, scientist on project: “Our research shows the link between various ecosystems and the danger of an imbalance in any one of them.”
* Award ceremony held in Leipzig, Germany at the Max Planck Institute
* A delegation of 10 scientists and leaders from IOO traveled from China to attend the ceremony
* On the day of the ceremony, there was a huge thunderstorm in Leipzig that made travel very difficult
* Quote by Prof. Yang XX, lead scientist: “Changing migration habits of water fowl will have unexpected consequences on the ecology of numerous estuaries.”
* Jin XX, S&T officer of the Chinese Embassy in Germany, also attended the ceremony
* Jin said, “This Prize is a great honor for China and proves China’s research capability in many areas is equal to the best in the world and brings much attention to China’s commitment to improving its innovative capability through numerous programs including those sponsored by both the government and industry. This is a great day for China.”