

Stringer Re-write Exercise

A stringer e-mailed the following information to your newspaper. As you will note, the stringer does not write well. However, your editor believes the story has a chance to be picked up by a wire service—if it is well written. Consequently, she tasked you to rewrite this as a soft-lead brief (roughly four- to- six graphs). Be creative, use your full knowledge of writing techniques to tell this colorful story. Also note that the stringer does not use style properly. You are responsible for fixing this mess.

- A truck carrying a 500 pound pig did crash at the intersection of 500 South and 1300 East.
- The accident occurred this morning at 0923. No one was injured, but the pig got out and ran through the neighborhood.
- The pig was going to be part of a petting zoo at the Hoggle Zoo. Ron Fry, who lives in the neighborhood saw the pig run through his back yard. He said, “It was a real big pig.”
- When the pig went into the garage of Fry’s neighbor Emma Watson, two U of U college students tried to corner it, but it charged out and ran towards the U. The police were called. Emma Watson’s birdbath and two lawn chairs were knocked over by the pig.
- Responding officer was John Kirkwood. He said, “We tried to catch the pig while it was running down the sidewalk...I grabbed it, but it was too big. It broke free and headed East.”
- Kirkwood called for back-up. His back-up arrived seven minutes later. The police received several other calls from homeowners who saw the pig running thorough their yards. The police cornered the pig in the backyard of Edgar Coleman who lives on 1300 East. However, the four police officers could not contain the pig. It was too big and broke away from them. “I think they should have shot it,” said Coleman.
- The pig headed toward the U. The police called animal control. However, the pig got into the parking lot at Rice-Eccles stadium. It nearly got hit by the Trax train in the process. “It nearly got hit by the Trax train,” said Kirkwood.
- The police and the animal control trapped the pig between two cars and threw a net over it. After this, the pig was taken to the zoo where it will make many children happy.