

Sample Leads for Feature Stories

Read each of the following student-written leads, and determine which you think are the strongest and which need more work. Be prepared to give reasons for your choices. Also, be prepared to suggest how to improve the leads that you consider weak.

- If they're lucky, most people figure out what they want to do for a living sometime in their mid-20s, but the decision to become a nurse came, well, early to Andrea Early.
- At age thirteen, John Beck skipped eighth grade and entered Wachusett Regional High School.
- David Arnold has liked motorcycles for a long time.
- For most of us, computer programming isn't a simple task. Neither is flying an airplane. But for Wachusett senior Mark Patterson, learning how to do both wasn't all that difficult.
- Several years ago in his native Albania, Lored's parents decided that the time was ripe for their growing son to move, not down the street, however, or to the town next door, but from one country to another.
- Although Paxton's Ellen Sullivan is the oldest of three children, she's used to being the youngest one around sometimes.
- School hasn't started yet, and already Gary Butler's day is jammed packed:
 - 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.—Work clearing brush at Bedrock Golf Course
 - 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.—Shower and attempt to scrub tree sap from hands
- For those of us who never want to get closer to an operating room than watching *ER*, Mark Weaver assures us that's a pretty accurate description.