

Synthesis Writing Topics on “The Open Boat” and Related Articles

1. Compare Crane’s article “Stephen Crane’s Own Story” with “The Open Boat.” What aspects of Crane’s real experience are included in the short story version? How do his account and the short story differ? Which version do you think is more effective in portraying Crane’s experience and why?
2. Based on your reading of “The Open Boat” and the three newspaper articles, explain Crane’s decision to write “The Open Boat” as a short story? What did he do with the short story that can’t be done in a nonfiction newspaper article? Evaluate the strengths of the short story over the articles. Support your ideas with details from each text.