



NEWSHOUR

A NewsHour with Jim Lehrer special for students

EXTRA

LESSON PLAN: BE the Press: Local Interviews, National Issues

Handout #5

TEMPLATES FOR WRITING ARTICLES

Straight News Article

Use this template to help you as you plan and organize your straight news article following the inverted pyramid approach.

Lead: Begin your article about your topic using a summary lead containing the most important elements from the 5Ws and the H.

Paragraph 2: The next most important information after the lead goes here.

Paragraph 3: Information that is slightly less important than that contained in Paragraph 2 goes here. You might want to start including quotes at this point.

Paragraph 4: Information that is less important than that contained in Paragraph 3 goes here. A quote should probably appear in this paragraph.

Paragraph 5: You should be wrapping up your article at this point. Final, least important information can go in this paragraph. Quotes can go here too.

In-depth news article template

Use this template to help you as you plan and organize your in-depth news article. Remember that in-depth news articles have more freedom in structure and organization than straight news stories. This template is simply a guide to help you. If your topic lends itself to a different structure, revise the template to suit your needs accordingly.

Lead: Begin your article by using a hard or soft news lead. You can practice writing one here. A hard lead might focus more on facts to get the reader's attention. A soft lead can capture the essence of the current situation with this topic in a creative way, plus hint at the background or history of it. A summary lead of the 5Ws and H is usually not needed for an in-depth news article.

Section 2: Begin explaining the topic here. You might find that you are still including some relevant 5Ws and H here. You also might find that, depending on your topic, this section might take up more than one paragraph. You should plan to include relevant quotations here.

Section 3: Now, you can go into the background of this topic. Readers will need a sense of history on these deeper topics in order to understand the present situation. You should plan to include relevant quotations here.

Section 4: Explain the current status of the topic. This might or might not be a slight restatement of some of the content of section 2, but you will be returning the reader to the current situation. You should plan to include relevant quotations here.

Section 5: Explain the potential future of this topic. Is there a solution in sight or a continuation of problems? Will more people be affected? You should plan to include relevant quotations here.

Ending: This can also be a creative ending, returning to the creative lead if possible, in some way. Or it can be a hard fact ending.