The Daily Alaska Dispatch

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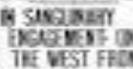
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Unit 2 - News Writing and Reporting

Why is News Reported?

Because people want to know what is happening Journalists gather information and summarize it Collect it fairly and accurately Present it in a simple format to audiences

News Focuses on the 5 Ws and 3 Cs

What's happening? Who is involved? Where is this happening? When is it happening? Why is it happening?

Clear - use simple language Concise - keep sentences short Correct - check your facts, grammar and punctuation

How is News Reported?

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE STORY IS THE OUTCOME So that is where a journalist starts... the story begins with the way the story ends...

Journalists do not tell stories in chronological order. They tell stories in the order of the importance of the information.

All news stories are written in the "inverted pyramid" style.

MOST NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?



GENERAL INFO AND OTHER DETAILS

THE LEDE - The opening line of the story containing the most important info

Ledes - Lead with the Lede!

"The most important sentence in any article is the first one. If it doesn't induce the reader to proceed to the second sentence, your article is dead." — William Zinsser, On Writing Well

What is a lede?

A lede is the opening sentence or paragraph of a news article, summarizing the most important aspects of the story. It includes the 5 Ws (What, Who, Where, When, Why)

A good lede...

"After mass street protests in Poland, legislators with the country's ruling party

have abruptly reversed their positions and voted against a proposal to

completely ban abortion." (By <u>NPR's Camila Domonoske</u>)

"The European Parliament voted Tuesday to ratify the landmark Paris

climate accord, paving the way for the international plan to curb greenhouse

gas emissions to become binding as soon as the end of this week." (By

<u>NPR's Rebecca Hersher)</u>

"The United States announced it is suspending efforts to revive a cease-fire in Syria, blaming Russia's support for a new round of airstrikes in the city of

Aleppo." (By <u>NPR's Richard Gonzales</u>)

"The Lead": The most important info

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? Approximately 30 words (1-2 thin paragraphs) May include a "hook" (provocative quote or question)

"The Body": The crucial info

Argument, Controversy, Story, Issue Evidence, background, details, logic, etc. Quotes, photos, video, and audio that

support, dispute, expand the topic

"The Tail": extra info Interesting/Related items May include extra context In blogs, columns, and other editorials: the assessment of the journalist

Let's suppose the City Police Department reports that an accident occurred at 2:30 a.m. today. This is the information the police provided to the press:

A car driven by Joe White, 29 years old, hit a curb on Main Street, smashed into a tree and overturned. Police say White was speeding and lost control of his car. He was hospitalized for minor injuries.

A passenger in White's car was killed. The passenger was Amanda Smith, 22 years old. She was pronounced dead at 2:45 a.m.

"We are conducting toxicology tests to determine if alcohol was involved," Police Chief Jack Russell said.

Most important outcome: A woman died THIS fact is even more important than the accident itself

When: 2:30 a.m. today

Where: On Main Street

Why: The driver, Joe White was speeding and lost control

How: The car hit a curb, smashed into a tree and overturned

Where did the information come from? All of the information must be tied directly to the source where it came from: THE POLICE. This is called attribution.



SO... put it all together in a lede:

A 22-year-old passenger (what) was killed early

today (when) after a car hit a curb, crashed into a tree

and overturned (how) on Main Street. (where)

The rest of the story would look like this:

According to the City Police Department, the driver

Joe White, 29, was speeding and lost control of his

car, causing the death of Amanda White. (Why the

news happened and who was the source)

The last part of the story as follows:

White was hospitalized for minor injuries. (This

covers an additional provided fact.) "We are

conducting toxicology tests to determine if alcohol

was involved," Police Chief Jack Russell said. (This

includes a quote from a source and attribution)

Inverted Pyramid Activity



In groups of two or three (or on your own if you'd like!) look through this weekend's newspaper for a story you find interesting.

Once you've found your article, write the headline on your inverted pyramid handout.

Cut out the news story and determine where the three sections of the inverted pyramid are. Cut them out and paste them in the correct space on the pyramid.

On the back, write the 5 Ws of a news story from your article.

EXIT TICKET

Brainstorm a list of 3-5 newsworthy events that have happened to you in your lives.

After we get back from break, you will be writing about a newsworthy event in your life in the inverted pyramid style.