

ANALYSING NEWS ARTICLES

When analysing a news article you look at how it is organized. News articles are divided into two parts, A strong *lead* or beginning to the article, and the *body*, or bulk of the article. The lead, which may be more than one paragraph long, answers the most important questions and often contains a *hook*, to grab the reader's attention and encourage further reading. Types of hooks include controversial statements, exciting events, and unanswered questions, all techniques to encourage the reader to continue reading the article. The body follows the lead, and fills in the rest of the details about the story. Most writers use an inverted pyramid form for the body in which the most important information is presented first, and the least important information last. In this way, you don't have to read the whole article to get the most important information.

When writing a news article, journalists answer the 5W+H questions. This is an abbreviation for *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how*. Usually, the most important of these questions are who, what, where, and when, so their answers often appear in the lead. The why and how answers frequently don't appear until the body.

ASSIGNMENT:

Choose four news articles. Your teacher may have old newspapers in your classroom to use, or you may have to go to the library to find them. For each news article, attach it to this worksheet, answer the questions which follow, and hand in for feedback from your teacher.

Name:

Date:

NEWS ARTICLE #1

1. Identify where the lead begins and ends.
2. Does the writer use a hook to grab the reader's attention? If so, what is it?
3. Fill out the table below to answer the 5W-H questions.

Who did it?	
What happened?	
Where did it happen?	
When did it happen?	
Why did it happen?	
How did it happen?	

4. Fill out this chart by summarizing the details in the body of the news article.

Details	Paragraph #

Name:

Date:

NEWS ARTICLE #2

5. Identify where the lead begins and ends.

6. Does the writer use a hook to grab the reader's attention? If so, what is it?

7. Fill out the table below to answer the 5W-H questions.

Who did it?	
What happened?	
Where did it happen?	
When did it happen?	
Why did it happen?	
How did it happen?	

8. Fill out this chart by summarizing the details in the body of the news article.

Details	Paragraph #

Name:

Date:

NEWS ARTICLE #3

9. Identify where the lead begins and ends.

10. Does the writer use a hook to grab the reader's attention? If so, what is it?

11. Fill out the table below to answer the 5W-H questions.

Who did it?	
What happened?	
Where did it happen?	
When did it happen?	
Why did it happen?	
How did it happen?	

12. Fill out this chart by summarizing the details in the body of the news article.

Details	Paragraph #

Name:

Date:

NEWS ARTICLE #4

13. Identify where the lead begins and ends.

14. Does the writer use a hook to grab the reader's attention? If so, what is it?

15. Fill out the table below to answer the 5W-H questions.

Who did it?	
What happened?	
Where did it happen?	
When did it happen?	
Why did it happen?	
How did it happen?	

16. Fill out this chart by summarizing the details in the body of the news article.

Details	Paragraph #