

Grade 7 English Language Arts

Week of March 8 – March 12

Lesson 3: Article Elements

There are certain elements that are common to almost all articles that you will read in the newspaper or find on the Internet. The following list explains the five major components, or parts, of a news article.

1. Headline (Heading)

The headline is the title of the news article. The headline should be short, does not include a lot of detail, and should catch the readers' attentions. It is normally not a complete sentence, and tries to summarize the main idea or subject of the article. It is often printed in larger letters than the rest of the article, and the major words are capitalized.

2. Byline

This line tells who is writing the article. It may also include the address of the author and the publication or news source for which he or she writes.

3. Location

This is usually placed at the beginning of the article in bold print. If the city or location is well-known, the name can be written alone, but if the city is less famous, more information is included. For example, the byline of an article written in Vancouver, BC would read 'Vancouver', while an article from Calgary, AB would have to include the name of the city.

4. Lead Paragraph(s)

The lead paragraph is found at the beginning of the article. The lead briefly answers the questions "who", "what", "when", "why", "where", and "how". The 'skeleton' of the story can be found here.

5. Supporting Paragraph(s)

These are the paragraphs which follow the lead. They develop the ideas introduced by the lead, and give more information in the form of explanations, details, or quotes. In many online magazines, these paragraphs are found on subsequent pages.

Most journalists (the people who write news articles) try to follow certain guidelines in their work. These principles of journalism help make sure that when people open a newspaper or magazine article, they can believe what they read.

1. A news article tells the truth: the journalist writes facts that are, to the best of his/her knowledge, true. A careful journalist only states things that he/she can prove to be true, and will 'cite' the source of any uncertain information. example: "According to Mrs. Brown, principal of North Oaks High School, most grade 9 students take French as a second language." In the statement above, even if it is later discovered that more grade 9 students take Spanish instead of French, the journalist has not lied. He/she has only claimed that Mrs. Brown says more grade 9s take French, which is still a true statement.



2. News is factual. Something that is factual can be proved or disproved. For example, “Last Saturday was a rainy day,” is a factual statement, because it can be clearly shown that last Saturday either was or was not rainy. “Rainy days are depressing,” is not a factual statement, because it is a personal opinion.

3. News articles are objective. They do not reflect the personal opinions of the journalist. Quotes and opinions of witnesses and observers to events may be included in an article, but they must be cited.

4. News articles relate information that affects or is of interest to the public. Some newspapers print articles that are of interest to a smaller audience. When the audience is concentrated in a particular region, such as a particular city or state, the newspaper is known as a ‘local’ paper.

5. The purpose of a news article is to report the facts of a current event or problem. Although many people enjoy reading the news, the purpose of a news article is not entertainment.

6. The language used in news articles is often different from the language that is used in everyday conversation, or in stories or narratives. The style of writing is impersonal, and the vocabulary is often more formal.

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It is now time to write the first draft of your main article. Be sure to include:

- a major aspect of the novel-the main conflict, the main characters etc.
- Who, What, Where, When, Why and How
- a good lead
- information based on facts from your research
- linking words and phrases

Linking Words and Phrases:

TO INTRODUCE AND ORGANIZE IDEAS

First, ...To begin with, ... Next, ... Another ...In addition

TO INTRODUCE DETAILS

For example, ...For instance, ... In fact, ... such as ... including

TO COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Similarly

Compared to

Have in common

Even though

Rather than

On the other hand

On the contrary

Although

As opposed to

However

In contrast

Otherwise

Now complete the activity, A Good Lead.

5.3 A Good Lead

As you work on the first draft of your main article, think about how you can grab your reader's attention quickly by writing a good lead, topic sentence.

Write 3 possible leads for your story here:

Lead 1:

Lead 2:

Lead 3:
