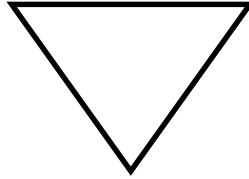


“Wright-ing” Prompt: Newspaper Article

Newspaper articles require a different style of writing from what is used when writing a story. When writing a newspaper article, picture a triangle like the one shown.



The newspaper article has all of the important information in the opening paragraph. This information includes **who, what, when, where, why** and **how**. It is written this way because most people do not read an entire newspaper article all the way through. So newspaper writers put the most important information at the beginning.

A typical newspaper article contains five (5) parts:

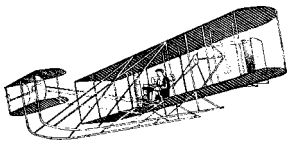
Headline: This is a short, attention-getting statement about the event.

Byline: This tells who wrote the story.

Lead paragraph: This has ALL the who, what, when, where, why and how in it. A writer must find the answers to these questions and write them into the opening sentence(s) of the article.

Explanation: After the lead paragraph has been written, the writer must decide what other facts or details the reader might want to know. The writer must make sure that he/she has enough information to answer any important questions a reader might have after reading the headline and the lead paragraph. This section can also include direct quotes from witnesses or bystanders.

Additional Information: This information is the least important. Thus, if the news article is too long for the space it needs to fill, it can be shortened without rewriting any other part. This part can include information about a similar event.



“Wright-ing” Prompt: Newspaper Article – Example

Below is an example of a newspaper article:

Headline: High flying escape ends in death

Byline: By Robin Sloan

Lead paragraph: Icarus, son of the famous inventor, Daedalus, plunged into the Aegean Sea and drowned while attempting to escape from the island of Crete early yesterday afternoon. His body has yet to be recovered.

Explanation: Icarus and his father had made wings from wax and bird feathers they had collected over the years while imprisoned on the island of Crete. They attached the homemade wings to their arms and, using a flapping motion, lifted off from the island shortly before noon. While making their escape, Icarus flew too close to the sun. As a result, the heat melted the wax on his wings which caused the feathers to drop off. The wings collapsed and Icarus fell into the sea and drowned.

Additional Information: Daedalus, sobbing from the distant shore where he had landed safely, said, “My last words to Icarus before we left the island was to stay close and not fly too high! He just didn’t listen! Why didn’t he listen to me?” Daedalus and Icarus had been held prisoner by King Minos on the island of Crete, and had been forced to build a labyrinth at the palace of Knossos. It was known to be the most difficult maze in the world to navigate successfully.



“Wright-ing” Prompt: Write Your Own Newspaper Article

Directions: Write a newspaper article about the Wright Brothers’ aeronautical feat of the first engine-powered, controlled flight in 1903. Use the guidesheet below to help you plan the information you will include for your article.

Headline:

Byline: By:

Lead Paragraph: Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

Explanation: