

# Writing Articles for Newspapers

## News

The “inverted pyramid” indicates that the writer starts with the conclusion—the most important, attention-getting information is written first followed by supporting, explanatory information in order of diminishing importance. The least important information is at the bottom.

This style allows newspaper readers to skim the openings of news articles for a quick news update; they can choose to read only partway through an article knowing that the information they fail to read at the end is not as important as at the beginning. This style also allows editors to chop off the least important information at the bottom of article so that the story will fit into the required space on a newspaper page.

A news story begins with the “5 W’s” of an event. Who is (are) involved? What happened? Where did the event occur? When? Why? Or how?

### Example:

More than 50 members of the Androscoggin Retired Educators Association (AREA) recently gathered at the community center to assemble classroom supplies in 50 backpacks to be distributed to students throughout the county.

According to Jane Smith, president, “Our hearts remain in the classroom long after we retire. We want to do whatever we can to continue to give back to the schools and students we love.”

John Blaketon explains, “I enjoy getting out, staying connected with former colleagues, and making new friends. AREA is a great venue through which I may remain active and continue to give back now that I have more free time.”

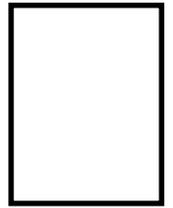
Representing thousands of years of teaching, AREA members meet six times a year at local restaurants where they hear guest speakers, musical concerts, and other interesting programs. Retired educators are invited to join; dues are \$10 per year. More information may be obtained from Jane Smith at 776-9054 or jane-smith@yahoo.com.

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### Notes:

1. Abbreviations in parenthesis after the first use of the name of an entity.
2. Rarely use dates.....news is automatically old. Use the word “recent.”
3. Generally, one idea constitutes a paragraph—often, one sentence is an entire paragraph.



## Features

The “rectangle” indicates that the first sentence is as important as the last in a feature article. Every sentence enhances the topic and enlightens the reader of important, supporting, explanatory information.

One must read the entire story in order to have a clear understanding of the topic. It is more creatively written with detailed information. It is an enriching piece with important information—leisurely read and digested and taken to heart. This style makes the editing job much more difficult as only the very least important information is eliminated so that the story will fit into the required space on a newspaper page.

A feature story may begin with a single word, a phrase, a question, or an exclamatory remark.

### Example:

Chatter!

Lots of it!

What is the big event? Why do retired educators flock to meetings month after month? Haven’t they attended enough meetings during their teaching careers?

What happens at a meeting of the Androscoggin Retired Educators Association (AREA)?

It is plain to see that these retired educators have much to offer communities and schools.

According to Jane Smith, president, “Our hearts remain in the classroom long after we retire. We want to do whatever we can to continue to give back to the schools and students we love.”

John Blaketon is a veteran and enjoys visiting classrooms during holidays dedicated to military men and women. He recently spoke in a sixth grade classroom at Union Street School and discovered that the grandfather of one of the students was in is platoon.

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### Types of Features:

- Historical: Explains the history of event, person, venue
- Explanatory: Explains how a craft, sport, activity is done
- Analytical: Dissects a problem and offers a solution
- Personality: Explains a person’s character and unique notoriety
- Human Interest: Depicts a unique, unusual skill, accomplishment, characteristic, ability