

# 5 Major Components of a News Article

## **1. Headline**

- Title of the article
- Short and sweet
- Catch readers' attention
- Pertains to the subject

## **2. Byline**

- Who is writing the article

## **3. Location**

- Where the event is taking place (if known)

## **4. Lead Paragraph**

- Who
- What
- When
- Why
- Where
- How

## **5. Supporting Paragraphs**

- Includes additional information
- Facts
- Witnesses
- Quotes
- Details

## Writing a News Article

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Before You Begin

You are going to study a bit about the way newspaper articles are written. First, find out what you already know about the news. Read each of the following statements, and decide whether or not you agree with it. In the space provided, write 'T' for true, or 'F' for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. News articles are only written about disasters, wars, and other catastrophic events.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Newspapers print articles that are of interest to readers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. News articles can use quotes and opinions from witnesses and observers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. News articles are error-proof.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. If the information is not in the 'lead', or introductory, paragraph, it is not important.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The purpose of news articles is to inform, not to entertain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. News articles are not enjoyable to read.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The lead of a news article answers the 5w-1h questions. (who, what, when, where, why, and how)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The style of a news article is narrative, like a story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. News articles contain dialogue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. News articles often contain imaginative details or elements of fantasy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. A caption is a short piece of text which contains a summary of a news article.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. All news articles are accompanied by pictures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. 'Headings' or 'headlines', are long, detailed, complete sentences.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Locations that are well known do not have to include states.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. If news articles have mistakes, corrections have to be published.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. A news article can sometimes be made up of only a lead paragraph, and still adequately cover the information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. News articles use a lot of descriptive language
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. News articles basically follow the same structure as an essay because they are both informative.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. The skills and techniques used to write news articles, which are non-fiction, and stories, which are fiction, are completely different.