**Writing a Feature Article for a Newspaper or Magazine**

Here's how you can tell the difference between a news story and a feature story.

* **News articles cover the basics of current events**. They answer the questions: who, what, where, how, and when?
* **Feature articles are longer and more in depth** than regular news articles. They cover one subject from multiple angles and are written in a more creative, entertaining format.

**The Basic Story Outline**  
The best way to structure a newspaper article is to first write an outline.

Review your research and notes. Then jot down ideas for the following six sections. Remember, this is just a foundation upon which to build your story!

**I. Lead sentence**  
Grab and hook your reader right away!

**II. Introduction**  
Which facts and figures will ground your story? You have to tell your readers where and when this story is happening.

**III. Opening quotation**   
What will give the reader a sense of the people involved and what they are thinking?

**IV. Main body**  
What is at the heart of your story?

**V. Closing quotation**  
Find something that sums the article up in a few words.

**VI. Conclusion** (optional—the closing quote may do the job)  
What is a memorable way to end your story? The end quote is a good way to sum things up. That doesn’t always work. If you are quoting more than one person with different points of view in your story, you cannot end with a quote from just one of them. Giving one of your interviewees the last word can tilt the story in their favor.

In this age of the Internet, you can also end your story with a link to more information or even your own behind-the-scenes blog post!

Using your research and notes, write an outline for your own article!

Remember, your first version of a story is a first draft, not a finished article. Here a few good tips for turning in a quality story to your editor/teacher.

* Read the story at least one time for comprehension. You want to make sure your writing tells a story with a beginning, middle, and end. Also, check to make sure you have at least two good quotes in it if at all possible.
* Go back over your draft to check for spelling and punctuation errors.
* Now, read it out loud! This will help you catch any awkward phrases, or sentences that don’t sound right.
* Once your piece is polished, turn it in to your editor. Be sure you have a slug or headline (which tells the subject of the story), a date, and your byline!