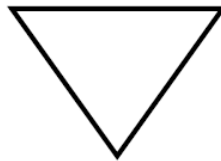


"Wright-ing" Prompt: Newspaper Article

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.

What is an article?

An article

- is a piece of writing usually intended for publication in a newspaper, magazine or journal
- is written for a wide audience, so it is essential to attract and retain the readers' attention
- can be formal or informal, depending on the target audience
- should be written in an interesting or entertaining manner
- should give opinions and thoughts, as well as facts

An article can

- describe an experience, event, person or place
- present an opinion or balanced argument
- compare and contrast
- provide information
- offer suggestions
- offer advice

A realistic article should consist of:

- 1. an eye-catching title** which attracts the readers' attention and suggests the theme of the article. (Think about why you read a magazine or newspaper article recently - what made you read it?)
Articles can also have subheadings before each paragraph.
- 2. an introduction** which clearly defines the topic to be covered and keeps the reader's attention.
- 3. the main body** of two to five paragraphs in which the topic is further developed in detail.
- 4. the conclusion** - summarising the topic or a final opinion, recommendation or comment.

REMEMBER:

Before you begin writing it is important to consider:

- **where** is the article going to appear - in a newspaper or magazine?
- **who** are the intended readers - a specific group such as students or teenagers, or adults in general?
- **what** is the aim of the article - to advise, suggest, inform, compare and contrast, describe, etc.?

The article could be formal, semi-formal or informal, depending on your intended audience.

Use vocabulary and descriptive language appropriate for the article. Linking words and expressions, and a variety of vocabulary will only improve your work and make it more interesting.

DO NOT use over-personal or over-emotional language or simplistic vocabulary.

DO NOT talk about yourself. You are writing for the general public, not a close circle of friends. Your opinions are only interesting to other people if you can make them amusing, justify them or explain them.

DO NOT present opinions, guesses and rumors as if they were facts. Distinguish clearly between fact and rumor by using some of the following phrases:

the **alleged** murderer, the **suspected** amfioso, **I've heard it said that...** **there is a rumor that**, the minister **is said to have/ is rumored to have/ is supposed to have** taken bribes.

Read the following article. Then do the following tasks.

- Who are the intended readers of this article?
- What is the aim of this article?
- Sum up each paragraph in one sentence.
- Find the following features in the article:
 - the lead
 - the WHO // WHAT // WHERE // WHEN // WHY // HOW
 - the conclusion
 - Collect 10 new phrases that you would like to remember and transfer them on into your vocab file.
 - Look at the use of the tenses carefully. Explain why the writer has used the tenses in the underlined passages.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/158377>

How to Fight Binge Drinking

Would lowering the legal age help colleges curb alcohol abuse?

By [Evan Thomas](#) | Newsweek Web Exclusive
Sep 11, 2008 | Updated: 12:48 p.m. ET Sep 11, 2008

College presidents like to picture happy scholars thinking deep thoughts in seats of higher learning. They don't like to think about students projectile vomiting and occasionally dying. But in the last twenty years, a surge of binge drinking by mostly underage students has spawned a growing number of date rapes and trips to the emergency room. For years, many colleges turned a half-blind eye to underage drinking. But as the casualties pile up, state legislatures are passing tougher liability laws. Colleges have been forced to try to crack

down on drinking in the dorms and frats, but bingeing has hardly gone away. Mostly, it's moved underground--kids secretly gathering to "pre-game," to down shots before going to supposedly "dry" college events, or off campus, where there's even less control. Angry neighbors complain about vomit in the streets and late-night noise, and city cops are generally less indulgent than campus cops.

Increasingly, it seems, frustrated college presidents are trying to fight back. About 150 of them--including the presidents of Duke and Dartmouth--have signed a letter pushing for "public debate" over reducing the drinking age to 18. The theory is that, combined with better education and increased supervision, lower drinking ages will get kids to drink responsibly.

It's true that forbidden fruit tastes better to 19-year-olds, and some of the bingeing is caused by the need to sneak

around and drink fast and hard when you can. But that's only part of the reason for the increase in binge drinking. (A series of studies since the early '90s show that ever-larger numbers of 15- to 21-year-olds are consuming more than five drinks in a single session.) Another reason is sex. Coeducation has brought boys and girls together on elite college campuses in the last thirty years, just as the old formalities of courtship and dating have gone by the wayside. Now it's just awkward boys and girls looking for a way to get together. Liquor helps this no-holds-barred mating ritual. Of course, some of the heaviest drinking occurred at single-sex schools where there was nothing else to do (see Dartmouth, home of the original Animal House, Alpha Delta Phi, in the 1960s). So sex and subversion aren't the only causes. There's the bonding ritual of getting blasted.

Today's students at elite schools are an intense bunch. They study hard, play hard, as the saying goes. With just a few hours set aside for fun, they need to cram it with getting wasted. Drinking games like "Beirut" (charmingly named after the shelling of the capital of Lebanon in the 1980s) have proliferated in part because the kids are competitive and like the intensity of vying to get high. The drinking games don't go on just at elite schools, of course. State universities have just as big a problem with bingeing as the Ivies, if not bigger.

Lowering the drinking age might help take the edge off the wildness. But in England and Germany, where the drinking age is already 18, bingeing is also a growing problem. (Young people

in other European countries seem to consume a lot, just not so quickly or violently.) The university presidents who signed the letter calling for a lower drinking age have a good argument: that tougher laws have forced them to try to ban drinking altogether, when reality suggests they should be looking for ways to keep the kids from harming themselves and each other. (In the 1920s, Prohibition didn't work either, except to feed profits to the underworld.) Still, they are running into stiff resistance from Mothers Against Drunk Driving, which successfully lobbied to raise the drinking age to 21 in the early '80s when statistics showed that age-18 drinking led to more highway deaths.

John McCardle, the former president of Middlebury College, who started the "Choose Responsibility" movement a couple years ago, argues that other factors, like wearing seat belts, had more to do with the reduction in highway deaths. The numbers are hard to quantify and subject to interpretation. The likelihood is that binge drinking will not appreciably decrease until more kids realize that drinking leads to sexual liaisons they will regret (with the risk of STDs and pregnancies), and that a kid who is throwing-up drunk looks and acts like a disgusting fool. There was a time when it was manly to be able to "hold your liquor." Now the goal seems to be able to expel it. Women, with lower tolerances, are even quicker to get sick. Maybe the most immediate step the college presidents could take is to exempt dormitory janitors from cleaning up the messes. Make the kids do it. © 2008

Writing Titles:

If your title isn't catchy and interesting, no one will read your article. Your title should be a concise summary of the information which is going to follow in the article.

A: Match the topics (1-10) below with the titles (A-K). There is one extra title that you do not need.

1. A healthy diet. _____
2. School Exams. _____
3. Eating out inexpensively. _____
4. The Internet. _____
5. A famous person. _____
6. Genetic Engineering. _____
7. Drug-taking. _____
8. An outdoor activity. _____
9. How to attract a man. _____
10. A successful career. _____

a. How to Reach The Top

b. Do You Need To Be Connected?

c. THE CRACK IN OUR SCHOOLS

d. Mouth-watering Recipes

e. Is Jogging Bad For Our Health?

f. An Apple A Day Keeps The Doctor
Away

g. To Flirt or Not to Flirt? - That is THE Question

h. A Testing Time

i. The Man Behind The Prime
Minister

j. Would You Like To Be Cloned?

k. Cheap and Cheerful Grub

adapted from: onestopenglish.com

B. Match the following first paragraphs with the titles on the opposite page.

1. It is now official that they are the reason man has AIDS. Scientists agree that although Chimps do not suffer from AIDS themselves, eating them, as is common and considered a delicacy in some countries, is the reason the virus is passed on to humans.

2. It is said that everyone has the ability or potential to write that blockbuster that will ensure our fame and fortune. Now a bus-driver from London has done just that and proved the point by writing a novel that has already been nominated for the prestigious Booker Prize.

3. After a hectic morning shopping, all my friend and I wanted to do was to sit down, drink a cup of tea and have a cigarette. Easy enough you might think, but not so. Every coffee bar, café and fast food restaurant we looked in, did not allow smoking. It seems us smokers truly are the pariahs of society.

4. Eco-friendly vehicles will soon be a fact of life. No more popping into the local garage for £5.00's worth of petrol. Instead, we will be plugging a battery into a spare socket at home, filling up with water from the tap, or using whatever idea the scientists come up with. Great you might think. But is it really possible that no giant corporation will be making money out of us?

5. One of the most unusual places that I have visited on my travels around the globe is Petra in Jordan. Nicknamed 'The Rose City', as the colour of the rock changes throughout the day, depending on the angle of the sun, it is also fascinating because every structure except one is built out of the rock of the mountains. The exception is a temple built by the Romans, who obviously did not have the instincts of the Nabataeans.

6. They are two famous film stars in their own right, who between them have been married seven times. After starring together in "Elizabeth", they are now divorcing their respective partners to marry each other. They say it was an instant attraction that is much deeper and more intense than either have ever experienced before. So what makes this time different? I went along to see them both at the Hilton Hotel to discover their secret.

7. The British are said to be the most watched people in the world. Video cameras on nearly every set of traffic lights, on motorways, on street corners, car parks, football grounds and shopping centres - to name but a few - they cannot make a move without being seen. For a country of people that refuses to have Identity Cards as they consider them an invasion of privacy, why do they tolerate this?

8. They say there is nothing like a woman scorned, and after the exploits of Polly Metcalfe, they might just be right. Her partner left her not just for another woman, but a woman half Polly's age and Polly was miffed, to say the least. What did she do in reply? Cut all his clothes in half and destroyed one of each pair of his shoes.

a. **SOCIAL OUTCASTS**

b. **Revenge Was So Sweet**

c. **Love At First Sight**

d. **They ARE carriers of HIV**

e. *The Future Of Oil Companies*

f. **BUILDING SIGHTS**

g. **We All Have A Best Seller In Us**

h. **Are They Intrusive?**

adapted from: onestopenglish.com

Useful words and expressions for text writing

the question arises	<i>Many young people consider smoking to be a harmless social pastime.</i>
as to whether	<i>The question arises as to whether they are justified in this assumption.</i>
the issue at stake	<i>This is precisely the issue at stake.</i>
hold water (argument)	<i>At first sight this appears to be a valid point but on closer inspection the argument doesn't hold water.</i>
above all	<i>It is wonderful to have knowledge at one's finger tips but it is above important to know how to access information.</i>
thanks to	<i>Thanks to vaccinations some illnesses have been all but eliminated.</i>
the former...	<i>Emeline Pankhurst and Germaine Greer are two renowned feminists.</i>
the latter	<i>The former was English while the latter is Australian.</i>
the root of the problem	<i>Typhoid claims many lives in the third world. The root of the problem lies in contaminated water supplies.</i>
counteract	<i>What can be done to counteract the effects of global warming?</i>
put into practice	<i>It is all very well to have plans and projects but the question is, can they be put into practice?</i>
the man in the street	<i>The man in the street isn't interested in the ins and outs of genetic</i>
the ins and outs	<i>engineering but he is worried about the implications of cloning.</i>
aggravate/exacerbate	<i>Alcohol can aggravate/exacerbate the problem of domestic violence.</i>
unbiased / impartial	<i>It's hard to remain impartial when it comes to child abuse.</i>
foreseeable future	<i>There can be no hope of improvement in the foreseeable future.</i>
overcome	<i>The older generation can overcome their fear of / doubts about / reservations about the new technology by learning how to use it properly.</i>
mutual understanding	<i>Many couples today come to a mutual understanding concerning housework.</i>
in former times	<i>In former times women had little say in public as well as private life.</i>
clear conscience	<i>Only vegetarians can have a clear conscience with regard to factory farmimg.</i>
benefit	<i>One of the benefits of vegetarianism is that it is a low-fat diet.</i>
drawback	<i>One of the drawbacks is that not all restaurants cater for vegetarians.</i>
human nature	<i>It is human nature to fear the new.</i>

C. Read the following first paragraphs and think of an appropriate title for each one.

1. TITLE: _____

It's that time of year again! Lots of expense, your patience tried to its utmost limits thanks to being in such close proximity to your family, over-eating and over-drinking - perhaps over-indulging generally - receiving presents you don't really want and seeing relatives you don't really want to see. They get wheeled out every year for a free meal and a sherry and drive you mad with their complaints. How to avoid all this? Do something different - go on holiday and let someone else take the strain.

2. TITLE: _____

The oldest known disease to man, and the first to be identified, is on the increase. It is now prevalent in twenty-four countries, and still doctors are unsure what causes leprosy. There is a general consensus that it could be contracted through the respiratory system, but as yet there is no solid evidence. On the other hand, it could be spread by touch. Leprosy is curable if detected in the early stages, but what are the symptoms?

3. TITLE: _____

The joy of writing a long, newsy letter to a friend, a short thank-you note or even a letter of complaint, seems to have disappeared nowadays. People just pick up the phone, fax or send an e-mail instead of composing something in their own handwriting, which is much more appreciated by the person receiving it. It shows thought, care and consideration but people, or their way of life, are changing.

4. TITLE: _____

Dieting seems to have become a way of life for many people, particularly women. It is said that at any one time three out of four people are on a diet, convinced that this is the magic formula, and that they will finally look like that model on the television they so envy. What they do not seem to realise is that they might well lose weight but will inevitably put it all back on - often more weight than they lost in the first place. The whole exercise is futile, and people never seem to realise that to lose weight permanently, one needs to change one's entire eating lifestyle.

5. TITLE: _____

Learning another language is not an easy process - different word order, irregular verbs, those tricky prepositions and difficult to pronounce, strange looking vocabulary. There are also many methods on offer to accomplish this feat - so many in fact, that it can become confusing and hard to decide which is the best way for you. Courses on cassette, evening classes, private lessons, a language school, move to the country of the target language (an extreme method, perhaps), a correspondence course or a pen friend - the list is endless and it is like a jungle trying to decide what to try.

onestopenglish.com

Writing Topic Sentences:

As you already know from our units on paragraph writing and essay writing, **TOPIC SENTENCES** are the signposts or navi-systems that guide your reader through your essay or article.

Remember: In most cases the topic sentence is the first sentence of a paragraph. In some cases it may come later. The topic sentence informs the reader exactly what the whole paragraph is going to be about.

D. In the following paragraphs, only the supporting ideas are given. The paragraphs are followed by three possible topic sentences. Circle the letter of the sentence that would best introduce the paragraph.

1.

Today, it is a science fact that technology has advanced to the point where anything is possible. Used as a means of increasing productivity, many factories are switching to automation - R2D2 does not require holidays, a bigger office, sick pay, a pension, and, most importantly, he does not go on strike.

- a. Star Wars is alive and well and living in our factories.
- b. At one time, robots were only found in science fiction books and films.
- c. Robots, once a fantasy and every housewife's dream, have become a part of our lives.

2.

Although initially building a subterranean home is more expensive than a conventional home, in the long run it can save the owner a great deal of money in heating and air-conditioning costs. These homes require much less energy, as the temperature of soil is relatively stable and concrete walls store the sun's heat, but keep the place warm at night.

- a. Underground homes are not a new idea.
- b. Underground homes are increasing in popularity.
- c. Underground homes can be cost effective and energy efficient.

3.

Two million microscopic bugs live in our beds, making a meal of our bed linen and anything else they find on the sheets. Our wardrobes support a breed of moth that not only eats through our clothes, but disguises itself by weaving a 'coat' from whatever it is eating at the time. This system breaks down when it moves from one garment to another, but is still extremely successful. Our eyelashes support a whole ecosystem, and these three are just the tip of the iceberg!

- a. If you think you are clean, think again.
- b. Most of the time we only worry about the insects we can see.
- c. Wherever we sit, stand, sleep or walk, we are engulfed by invisible to the naked eye mites.

4.

We set so much store by it, and rush around to be in different places at the precise time we are meant to be there. Deprive people of a watch or clock, and most of them have no conception of what the time really is. It is man made and man imposed. People used to go to bed when the sun set, and rise when the sun came up. In antiquity, man had no timepieces but worked with the seasons - the flooding of the Nile meant irrigation of the crops and therefore the populace could be fed. The rural Egyptian did not care if this happened at eight o'clock in the morning or four in the afternoon; of paramount importance was the season.

- a. Have you ever wondered about time?
- b. Is time two or three-dimensional?
- c. Whether it is a Rolex or a Timex, is it really significant?

5.

We all want pearly white, even, straight teeth, but all eat the wrong foods and drink liquids full of sugar. How many people do you know who have actually wanted to become dentists? Yet they are everywhere and we all at some point in our lives need them, however long we put off that visit. It is usually when the pain becomes so bad that we finally venture into their surgery, quivering at the knees and shaking like a jelly. Have you ever noticed too, how that pain miraculously disappears once you are there?

- a. How many people are suffering from mercury or lead poisoning from all those fillings?
- b. They are a necessary evil but nine out of ten people are frightened to death of them.
- c. Don't you just dread the sound of that drill?

When you have checked your answers, write a title for each of the paragraphs.

adapted from: onestopenglish.com

Writing your own article:

Do a **brainstorming** about interesting topics for an article. Your topic should be of **current interest** (nobody wants to read old news), **important and relevant** to your readers.

Decide **who your readers will be** and in what **type of magazine or newspaper** your article will be published. This will effect the style and register of your text.

My topic:

My readers:

My text will be published in:

Collecting facts:

To make sure you have the basic information to write your article, create a **5W's chart** on an A4 sheet. Collect your facts in note form.

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	Why?
Who is involved?	What happened? What is the problem?			

My goal in writing this article is to

convince, show, analyze, inform, entertain, compare, offer suggestions on, offer advice, present an opinion, describe an experience/ event/ person/ place/product...

Outline: On an A4 sheet make an outline of your article.

Your outline must include:

- **Title/Headline:**
- **Lead paragraph:**
- **Topic sentence §1:**
- **Topic sentence §2:**
- **Topic sentence §3 (if necessary)**
- **Conclusion:**

Then all you need to do is add details (arguments, examples, information...) to each paragraph, reread your text to smooth the transitions by adding some linkwords, and proofread for language and spelling mistakes. Your article should be between 250 and 300 words long.