

# ReadBox Project

## -What's the news ?-



A newspaper is a daily or weekly publication on folded sheets. It contains current news, editorials, feature articles, opinions and usually advertising. The most important or interesting news will be displayed on the front page of the newspaper.

The purpose of newspaper is, to inform or educate, persuade and entertain the readers. Newspaper articles are written in the third person and should be and balanced; facts are provided supporting both sides of the issue.

There are two main types of newspapers; quality, also called, broadsheet newspapers and the tabloid newspapers. A broadsheet is usually printed on large sheets of paper. They contain more serious news than tabloid papers, which are smaller, although many broadsheets are nowadays printed in compact size.

## Different sections of the newspaper

The *front page* is considered as the mirror of any newspaper. It contains all the breaking/ important news. The headlines of the front page are catchy with an aim to capture the readers' attention.

*News articles* cover the basics of current events and can be divided into three groups: local news articles, national news articles and international news articles. *Local news articles* focus on what is going on in your neighbourhood. *National news articles* focus on what is happening within your country and *international news articles* focus on news that is happening outside your country.

A *feature article* is often longer and more in depth than a regular news article. A feature article usually covers one subject from multiple angles and is often written in a more entertaining format. Feature articles are not considered news stories, but they are helpful in sharing information on the topics of readers' interest. These stories may be based upon a trend, an event or a situation. *Special features* are meant to have a healthy discussion on a specific issue or a special case, event or story.

An *editorial* is an article that contains the writer's opinion. Editorials are usually printed on a specific page of the newspaper and focus on current events. They help the readers to build up their thoughts and views and promote a higher level of thinking skills. Editorials are not considered news stories. The *Letters to the Editors* represent the opinions of the readers.

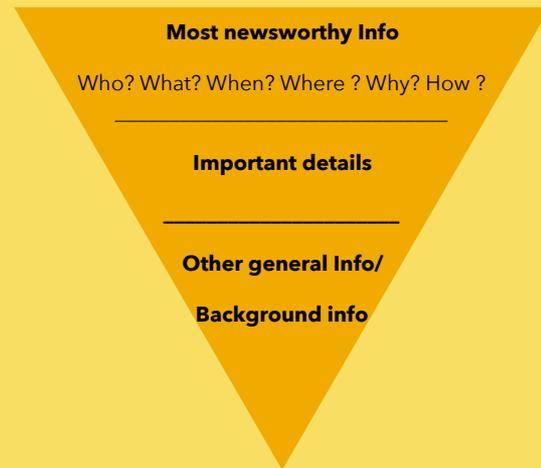
The *classified advertisements* (also called classified ads) are typically short and one newspaper column wide. They are very helpful for the readers to know more about an existing or newly launched product(s).

In a newspaper, the readers can also easily find time tables of, for example, trains, schedules of events, television, theatre, movies etc. Readers can also find useful information such as the weather forecast.

## Newspaper Article - Format and structure

The structure of a newspaper article is often compared to an inverted triangle with the most important details at the top of the news article. Details and other relevant information is placed in the body of the text. The least important information placed at the end of the article. Don't forget that newspaper articles are not written in chronological order.

Newspaper reports are written in columns.



### A newspaper article includes the following (in order):

- An eye-catching **headline** which attracts the readers' attention and suggests the theme of the article. Often, short phrases and incomplete sentences are used.
- **A by-line** tells the readers who wrote the story: the reporter's name is mentioned, often accompanied by a picture. Please keep in mind that articles can also have subheadings before each paragraph.
- **The Introduction**, also called the opening paragraph, of about 25-40 words in length which clearly provides the topic to be covered and keeps the reader's attention. Answering *who, what, where, when* (*how* and *why* are often mentioned later on in the article). The reporter writes the answers to these questions and writes them into the introduction of the article.
- **The main body** of the newspaper article: two to five paragraphs of about 30-40 words, in which the topic is further developed in detail. Each paragraph has a main idea and different fact. They may also include direct quotes from witnesses or experts. Details are given in order of importance, with the least important details at the end of the article.
- **The conclusion**: At the end of a newspaper article the facts and final opinion(s)/ comments/ recommendations are summarised. This part can also include extra information about a similar event.

## **Before getting started**

Remember that your newspaper article needs to be approved by your teacher before you can use it for your ReadBox project, so please check beforehand that the newspaper article doesn't have inappropriate language or inappropriate content. If you are not certain, ask your teacher. Also make sure that your that the language level is suitable for you.

## **Procedure**

- 1 First of all you have to find your newspaper article (400-700 words). (see ReadBox Introduction for hyperlinks).
- 2 Scan a newspaper article (a topic of interest). Log onto your Edmodo ReadBox folder, make a new folder and name it: ReadBox Newspaper. Upload both the newspaper article scan onto your Edmodo ReadBox folder. If you cannot upload it, make sure that you insert a hyperlink. Also put a copy into your personal portfolio at home.
- 3 The next step is to read the newspaper article silently. Go for the overall meaning of the text, you do not have to understand every word.
- 4 After reading the newspaper article for the first time, fill in the headline of the newspaper article, the by-line, source, date of publication.
- 5 Read the newspaper article a second time (and a third time if necessary). Now you are going to read for detail and specific information. Use clues in the newspaper article to determine the theme and the author's point of view. While reading the newspaper article, also make a vocabulary list of the most important words and take notes on any information critical for your understanding of the newspaper article. (Use your Vocabulary Notebook/ Notes Appendix)
- 6 Answer the questions on the next pages and then write down your reflections and interpretations about the newspaper article.
- 7 Save your file as: First Name Family Name Newspaper onto your Edmodo ReadBox folder.

**READBOX**

**What's the news ? - Newspaper article**

**Name student & Class** \_\_\_\_\_

**Headline of the newspaper article** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**By-line (Reporter's name)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Source** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of publication** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 On what page have you found your article ? What kind of article is it (news story/ feature story/ special feature/ editorial/ (classified) advertisement/miscellaneous)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 What can you say about the layout of your chosen newspaper article ?  
Who are the intended readers (a specific group such as teenagers/ students/ adults) ?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 What is the aim of your chosen newspaper article ? (to inform, to advice, to describe, to suggest, to compare / contrast, etc.) ? How do you know this ?

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4 What can you say about the use of language and the level of formality? (formal/ semi-formal/ informal - depending on your intended audience). Give four examples of this use of language.

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5 Read the article (again) and explain *who, what, where, when, how* and *why*. Give a summary of the newspaper article.

*Who ?*

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*What ?*

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*Where ?*

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*How ?*

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*Summary*

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*Why ?*

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6 Why did this newspaper article appeal to you ? What was your most favourite part of the newspaper article ? Explain your answer.

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## Follow-up activity

Now that you have uncovered the layers of meaning that lead to comprehension of the newspaper article, it is time for your follow-up activity.

You can choose from the following activities:

- Make a quiz (Kahoot! / Quizizz/ MyStudiyo)**

Use the links above and create your own quiz (10 questions). Don't forget to use pictures! Make sure you upload the hyperlink: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Make a news report to cover your news item. (**Green Screen** - Use the Inventorium Audio Room)**

- Make an audio podcast to cover your news item. (VoiceThread/ Vocaroo/ Spreaker)**

Please fill in the details below:

I am aware that this project is due no later than: \_\_\_\_\_.

I will upload my digital Newspaper assignment to my personal Edmodo ReadBox folder no later than \_\_\_\_\_ and I will save a copy in my personal portfolio as well.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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