



NEWSHOUR

A NewsHour with Jim Lehrer special for students

EXTRA

LESSON PLAN: BE the Press: Local Interviews, National Issues

Handout #2

Notes/criteria for “In depth” news articles:

- If the news article is on a larger topic (ex: rising costs of prescription drugs, rising gas costs, military enlistments dropping, etc.), some background information, additional analysis, and interpretation may need to be included in these articles in order for the reader to understand completely the scope of the issue.
- In-depth news reporting requires additional why and how
- This kind of reporting is called “investigative reporting” which requires additional research to take the reader beyond the surface facts
- Often, the inverted pyramid will not work for this type of news article. The inverted pyramid is meant to encapsulate the news and present it quickly for the reader to digest.
- However, outlining the volume of information in in-depth news articles is a must. Writers have much more freedom in how they present the information to the reader. Writers simply need to ensure that they present the information and the issue in a logical and easy-to-follow fashion.
- Some components of an in-depth article might include the following sections:
 - explanation of current issue
 - background of issue
 - past problems with issue
 - past attempts at solution of issue
 - where this issue is headed in the future

Keep in mind that writers should strive to blend into each section quotes from appropriate sources, whether they be authorities, experts, or the average guy on the street stating his relevant reaction. All should be blended into the sections and not saved for one big “quotes” section.

- A variety of sources is expected
 - Experts
 - Authorities
 - Average citizens who are affected
 - People who may be affected one day
- In-depth articles do allow for a softer, more creative lead