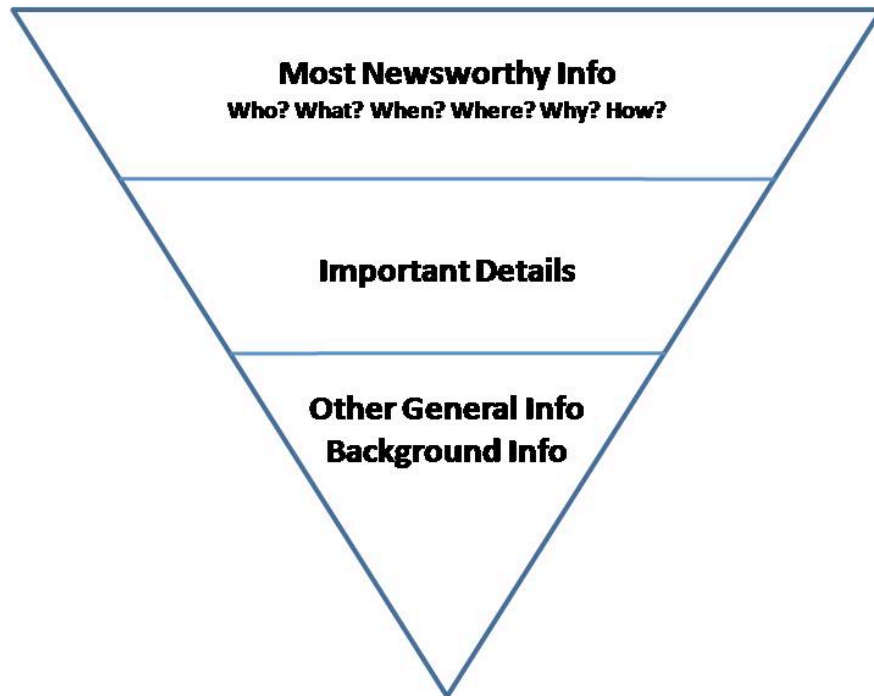


How Are News Stories Written?

News stories are usually written using what is often called the “inverted pyramid”. An easier way to think about this is by calling it an “upside-down triangle”, because that’s what it looks like!



(source: The Air Force Departmental Publishing Office, Wikimedia Commons)

As you can see, the most important information goes right under the headline (including the five Ws and how), followed by other important facts about the story and finally more general background information about people, places or things connected to the story. Remember, the headline gives you a hint about the focus of the rest of the story.

What Makes Something Newsworthy?

There are lots of things journalists think about when they decide how important or “newsworthy” a story is, and where they are going to show it. Here are the big ones:

Timing: the newer something is, the more newsworthy it becomes for journalists.

Size: the number of people affected. Will it affect only a few people, or thousands? Millions? The more people affected, the more newsworthy it becomes for journalists.

Place: Where a story happened. Did the story happen near to where you are, or far away? The closer it is to you, the more newsworthy it becomes for journalists.

Fame: How famous the people or things that were affected are. Was it the president, or your neighbour? The more famous the people, the more newsworthy it becomes for journalists.

Human interest: Will people have big emotional reactions to the story? Are they likely to laugh or cry? The bigger the emotional reaction, the more newsworthy it becomes for journalists.

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