

Lesson 5: Leads

Objectives:

Identify the components of a news story

Materials:

- News story examples
- Teacher-created list of facts in the form of the five W's and H
- Five W's and H advanced organizer for assignment

Vocabulary:

fact- reality or truth

headline- title of story that is written to attract the reader

lead- paragraph that tells the most important information of a news story

body- the paragraph that gives more information and detail about the lead

Process: Identifying, Comparing and Contrasting, Recognizing Relationships, Drawing Conclusions, and Application.

Procedure:

1. Review how to gather facts (vs. opinions) for a news story.
 - A. Use the five W's and H questions
 - B. Observe, gather facts, and take notes
 - C. If possible, interview people involved in the event. Ask questions about what happened. Be sure you use exact quotes.
2. Discuss the parts of a news story:
 - A. Write a lead paragraph -
 - B. Body of the paragraph gives more detail of the lead
 - C. Write a short interesting headline, using a strong verb to attract the reader.
3. Practice identifying the parts of a news story. Read the class a portion of a news story and guess what part you are reading.
4. Gather in groups and practice writing leads given the information of the five W's and H. The purpose is to present all of the important information about the event. Also keep in mind that the event needs to be explained in a clear, easy to understand manner for the audience.