

Name _____

Writing Map of a General News Story

What you need before you write: First person observation, interviews with witnesses, official sources, expert sources and background research. Use the writing map below to help you plan and execute a general news story.

| Paragraph | Information to Include | Your Prewriting |
|--|--|-----------------|
| 1 | A 5 W's lead that shines a flashlight on the story. | |
| 2 | More details. Don't pack too much into the lead. | |
| 3 | Strong quote. Interview bystanders, witnesses and affected parties. | |
| 4 | Larger context. Why the story matters. | |
| 5 | Summary of arguments to come. Summarize both (or all) points of view here. So no point of view seems favored. | |
| 6 | Supporting quotes, in backwards order. This quote should support the last point of view in the summary. | |
| 7 | Transition and second supporting quote for the same side, one that supports or builds on the first. Use a transition to avoid using two quotes back to back. | |
| 8 | Transition to signal we are now hearing from the other side and a supporting quote from the other side. | |
| 9 | Second supporting quote for the same side, one that supports the first. Notice you do not need to make any comment about the arguments. | |
| Use one or more of the following, if you have room. | | |
| 10 | Real-time color. An anecdote or an example. Or | |
| 10 | The past. What history can show the reader. Or | |
| 10 | The future. What is the next step? What will the story look like in the future? | |
| 11 | The kicker. A short, high-impact sentence, a telling quote, something that brings the reader back to the beginning. | |