

Name _____

Prewriting Chart

Directions: Use the following prewriting chart to help you collect all the elements of a strong news story.

What You Need	What You Have (keywords, names, references to your reporter's notebook, etc.)
What is this story about in one sentence? (That is the focus.)	
Why should my audience care? (This is the significance.)	
What is the most compelling and fresh part of this story? (That should come first in a folo or general news story and be the focus of a breaking news story.)	
Five W's lead or a feature-type lead?	
What is the conflict or controversy?	
Who will speak for each side of the controversy?	
Side One: Names, identification, quotations	
Side Two: Names, identification, quotations	
Side Three: Names, identification, quotations	
Who can give a face to the problem? Name, identification, quotations	
Real-time color—anecdote	
Interesting descriptive detail or scene	
What other things does my audience want to know about this? In what order?	
History of controversy?	
Broader causes and conflicts involved?	
Are any quotations from sources especially memorable (potential closing quote)?	