

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