**Writing your First News Story**

**Step One: Getting Started**

*Topic* (Pick something that interests **you**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Purpose* (Why would a reader want to read about this? ) How would it impact him/her, the community or the world?)

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Who is your *audience*? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What *section*(s) of the newspaper might you find this article? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Step Two: Research**

1. Read, read, read! --
   1. Find at least two sources that gives you background information about your topic. (Make sure you can identify the location of the sources as if your were to do a bibliography).
   2. Read and annotate the information. Write down questions, look up vocabulary, note the experts or people involved, highlight the most important information your readers would want to know.
2. Identify various points of view (stakeholders) – Add more if needed.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Position/Job** | **Connection to Topic** | **Can I contact them? If so, how? If not, can you provide an indirect quote?** |
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1. Develop a list of a few open-ended questions that will help you communicate the purpose of your topic ***for each contact***. Make one sheet of questions per contact. As you interview or research further put your notes, interviewee responses, etc. on the same paper.

**Step Three: Refine and Organize**

1. Go through all of your notes and fill in the handout “Inverted Pyramid” with the information that best communicates your overall message. (Note: Is there something missing? Is further research needed?)

**Step Four: Write, write, write!** – This is a tricky genre. Your goal is to stay objective (no personal opinions), and give factual inormation but keep your reader engaged at the same time!

1. Using your pyramid planner, notes, and