

## Lesson 1: The Anatomy of a News Report

### The Inverted Pyramid & The 5 Ws

In journalism, we don't save the best for last. Unlike a mystery novel where the "secret" is revealed at the end, a news report delivers the most vital information immediately. This structure is known as the Inverted Pyramid.

#### 1. The Theory: The Inverted Pyramid

Inverted Pyramid is a metaphor used by journalists to illustrate how information should be prioritized and structured in a text.

- **The Lead (The Most Newsworthy Info):** This is the first paragraph. It must address the 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why). If a reader only reads this section, they should still know exactly what happened.
- **The Body (The Crucial Details):** This section provides the "How," background info, and evidence. This is where you include direct quotes from witnesses or officials.
- **The Tail (Extra Information):** This includes "nice-to-know" details, related history, or contact information. If an editor needs to cut the story for space, they start from the bottom.

#### 2. The Foundation: The 5 Ws

To write an objective report, you must answer these five questions:

1. Who was involved?
2. What happened?
3. Where did it take place?
4. When did it occur?
5. Why (or How) did it happen?

Practice Exercise : Instructions: Read the following University Press Release and complete the tasks below.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Biskra, February 3, 2026 — The Faculty of Letters and Languages at the University of Mohamed Khider held its annual "International Translation Day" conference yesterday in the Omar El-Bernawi Auditorium. The event, which ran from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, brought together over 200 students and expert linguists to discuss the role of AI in modern translation. Dean Slimane Mansour opened the session, emphasizing that while technology is evolving, human cultural nuance remains irreplaceable. The day concluded with a workshop where students translated local poetry into English and French.

#### Task 1: Identify the 5 Ws

- Who: \_\_\_\_\_
- What: \_\_\_\_\_
- Where: \_\_\_\_\_
- When: \_\_\_\_\_
- Why: \_\_\_\_\_

## Task 2: Critical Analysis

Does the text above follow the Inverted Pyramid? Why or why not?

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## The "Lead" Hierarchy and Information Pruning

In a complex event, not all "Ws" are created equal. A reporter must choose a **Lead Focus**:

- **The "Who" Lead:** Used when a famous person (e.g., a Minister or a Nobel prize winner) visits.
- **The "What" Lead:** Used when a major change or shock occurs (e.g., a new grading system).
- **The "Why" Lead:** Used when the cause of an event is more important than the event itself.

## Advanced Practice Exercise: The "Messy Desk" Challenge

**Scenario:** You are a student reporter. Below are raw notes taken during a chaotic campus event. **Your Task:** Organize these notes into a 3-paragraph report using the **Inverted Pyramid**. You must write a "What-focused" Lead.

### The Raw Notes:

- Location: Central University Plaza.
- Time: 10:30 AM, Tuesday.
- Event: A sudden protest by the Student Union.
- Reason: The University cafeteria doubled the price of coffee and sandwiches overnight.
- Conflict: Campus security blocked the entrance to the administration building.
- Quote from Student Leader (Amine): "We study for 8 hours a day; we shouldn't have to choose between a book and a meal."
- Quote from University Rep (Mrs. Zineb): "Inflation has hit our suppliers. We are looking for a compromise."
- Outcome: A meeting is scheduled for next Thursday between students and the Rector.
- Extra Info: The cafeteria hasn't been renovated since 2012.

## Task 1: The Synthesis Draft

Write the report.

- **Paragraph 1 (The Lead):** Must contain all 5 Ws in under 35 words.
- **Paragraph 2 (The Body):** Must integrate both quotes and explain the conflict.
- **Paragraph 3 (The Tail):** Include the background information and the next steps.

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**Task 2: The "Structural Cut"**

Imagine your editor says the newspaper is too full. You must delete exactly **40 words** from your report without losing the 5 Ws. Which section do you cut, and why?

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