

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# News Story Analysis Worksheet

**Directions:** Using the NOW Online news story provided, analyze the content to learn more about the topic as well as the process of writing an informational news story. Be as specific as possible with all of your answers, referring back to the news story in your answers when appropriate.

1. What was the headline for the story?
  
2. Discuss the effectiveness of the headline in summarizing the story and getting the reader's attention.
  
3. Briefly describe the factual content of the story related to the lead: 5 W's and the H.
  - Who:
  - What:
  - When:
  - Where:
  - Why:
  - How:
  
4. How did the end of the story summarize the main ideas and provide closure for the reader?
  
  
5. Facts in a news story are supposed to be arranged from most to least important. Do you believe the author did this effectively? Why?

6. Writing style is important in keeping those reading and listening to the story engaged. Comment on the use of the following throughout this story:

- active voice
- precise, concise wording
- interesting and varied word choices
- unbiased reporting

7. Discuss the accuracy of the facts used in the story. How do you know that the sources used were reliable and accurate? Provide specific examples.

8. In what way did the use of quotations....

- add to the credibility of the story?
- make the story more interesting?
- present differing points of view about the topic?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## News Story Project Guide

### Step 1:

Work individually, in small groups, or as a class to **brainstorm** a list of possible news story topics. These should be topics that would allow you to interview and investigate just like a local reporter would do on the job. Limit your selections to your local school and community to ensure you can complete the interviewing process.

### Step 2:

Select a topic you will use as the focus of your news story.

### Step 3:

Conduct research using the NOW Online topic search feature available at [http://www.pbs.org/now/topic\\_search/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/now/topic_search/index.html). Use additional reputable sources and **conduct at least one interview** to collect the facts for your story. **Record** all of your notes/facts using audio, video, or written documentation.

### Step 4:

**Organize** your news story. Make a list of facts and story-related information, putting the data in order from most to least important.

### Step 5:

**Write** your news story, even if you intend to produce an audio or video version of it. This will ensure that you include all of the required elements listed below:

- Attention getting headline
- A strong lead containing 5 W's and H (who, what, when, where, why, and how)
- Quotations (we like to hear what others have to say about the topic of the story)
- True, accurate facts
- A strong summary
- Information presented from most to least important
- Sources were cited for reliability

### Step 6:

**Edit** your work, checking to see that all required parts (listed above) are included and verifying that you have used the following in your writing style:

- active voice
- precise, concise wording
- interesting and varied word choices
- unbiased reporting

### Step 7:

**Create** your final news story using one of the formats listed below:

- a written story that could be printed for others or posted as a text document on a website
- an audio version of the news story that could be played or presented as a podcast

- a video productions of the news story that could be played or posted on a video sharing site or aired as part of a school or district news program

**Step 8:**

**Share** your news story with others. **Encourage evaluation** of your technique by asking others to analyze your story using a tool such as the **News Story Analysis Worksheet** you completed in the first steps of the lesson.