

## How to Write Newspaper Articles

- Most newspaper stories follow the same basic structure and will use the **Inverted Pyramid**.
- You should be very familiar with the inverted pyramid style of writing. You'll likely use it every day. For example, when you call a friend to tell him or her about a big date, you begin by telling the most interesting and important things first. The least important information is saved for the end of the conversation, and depending on how much time you have to talk, that information may not get into the conversation.
- That concept also applies to news stories. The **lead** is the **first paragraph** of a news story.
- Usually, the lead summarises the facts of the news story in order of most newsworthy to least newsworthy. The reader should know at first glance what the story is about and what its emphasis is.
- The lead sets the **structure** for the rest of the story. If the lead is good, the rest of the story comes together easily.
- One guiding principle behind story organisation is: The structure of the story can help the reader understand what you are writing about.
- The structure should lead the reader from idea to idea simply and clearly. The object is to give readers information, and wow them with convoluted style.

### Who, What, Where, When, Why and How ... The five Ws and an H:

- Depending on the elements of news value, the summary news lead emphasises and includes some or all of the five Ws and H.
- **Who** names the subject(s) of the story. The who, a noun, can refer to a person, a group, a building, an institution, a concept -- anything about which a story can be written.
- The **what** is the action taking place. It is a verb that tells what the who is doing. Reporters should always use active voice and action verbs for the what because they make the wording direct and lively.
- **When** tells the time the action is happening. It is an adverb or an adverb phrase.
- **Where** is the place the action is happening. Again, it is an adverb or adverb or adverb phrase.
- **Why**, another adverb, explains the action in the lead.
- **How** usually describes the manner in which action occurs.

### Formula for a Well-Written News Article:

#### 1. First paragraph

In your first one or two sentences tell who, what, when, where, and why. Try to hook the reader by beginning with a funny, clever, or surprising statement. Go for variety: try beginning your article with a question or a provocative statement.

#### 2. Second/Third/Fourth paragraphs

- Give the reader the details. Include one or two quotes from people you interviewed. Write in the third person (he, she, it, and they). Be objective -- never state your opinion. Use quotes to express others' opinions!

#### 3. Last paragraph

- Wrap it up somehow (don't leave the reader hanging. Please don't say.... "In conclusion" or "To finish..." (yawn!) Try ending with a quote or a catchy phrase.
- Use active words (verbs that show what's really happening.)
- Take notes when you interview. Write down quotes!

- Tell the really interesting info first!

# Humpty Dumpty Fatally Cracked

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Today, at the Joker's Wall during the Jesters' Challenge, none of the great King's horses nor men were able to save Humpty Dumpty after his fatal fall.

Hearing the crowd's screams, the King's horses and men raced to the scene to try and rescue Humpty Dumpty but he was cracked beyond repair. They had volunteered to provide security and medical assistance for the Jesters' Challenge, being held for the first time in the castle grounds.

"Humpty was just trying to go for the wall-sitting record when he toppled over," said Little Red. "I told him that wall was too high for an egg but he wouldn't listen."

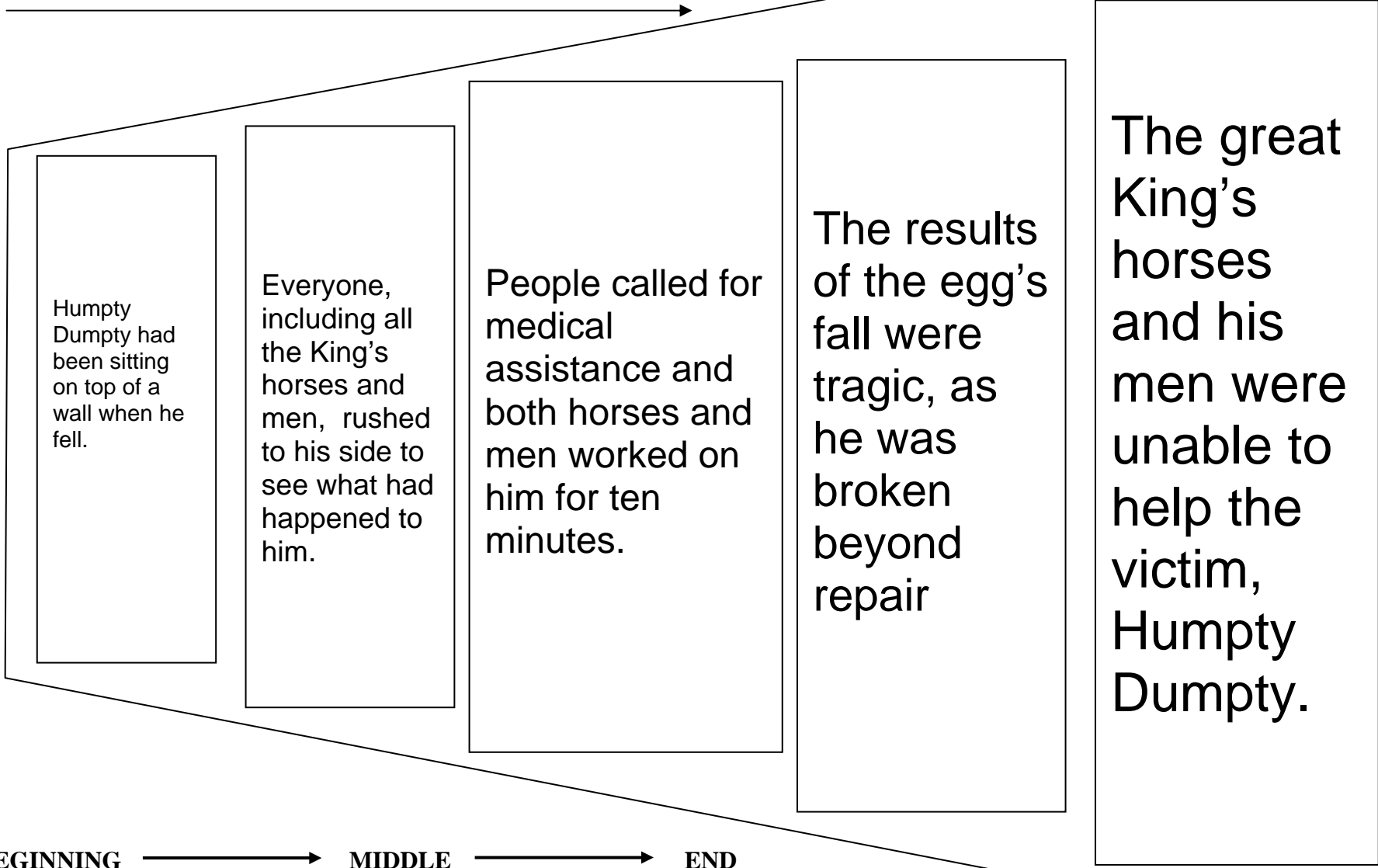
"Humpty Dumpty bragged about how he was going to win the prize and that he could balance better than anyone else," explained

Humpty had hoped to win the prize so that he could purchase a new ceiling fan to keep his eggcup cool in the summer.

Little Red reports that Humpty had been practicing earlier in the afternoon but on a much lower wall.

# The Event

Chronological order with building excitement



Excerpt from The Literacy Landscape