

DISCOVERING 'THE DISPATCH'

The 5 Ws

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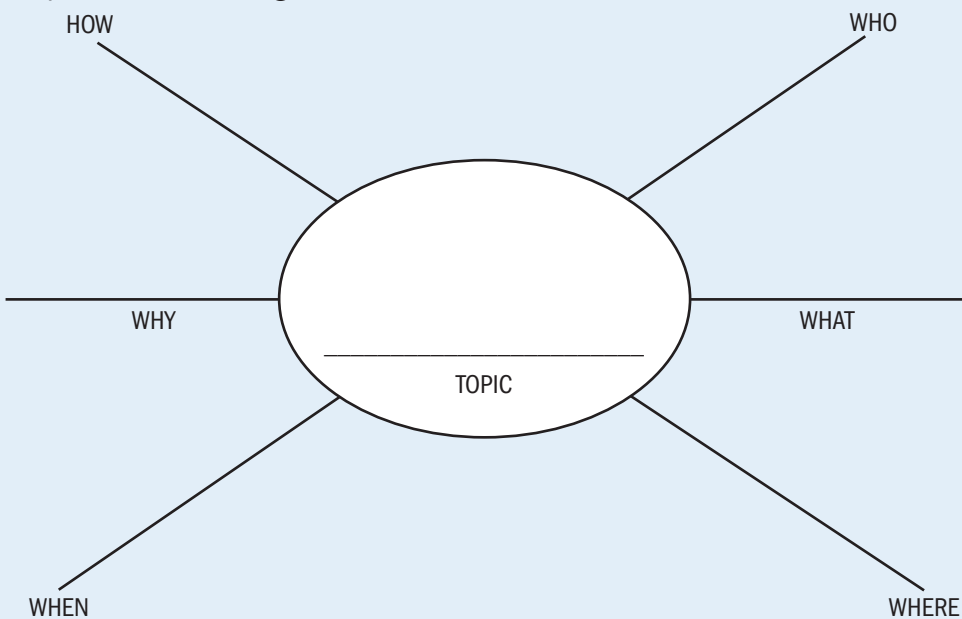
Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How? These are the questions reporters work to answer in their news articles. They are called the *5 Ws and an H*, or just the *5 Ws* for short.

Reporters try to answer the 5 Ws in all hard news stories. A hard news story is a story about urgent or serious news. It is written using the inverted, or upside-down, pyramid style. This way, you get all the important facts first – the who, what, where, when, why, and how. Then if you want more details, you can read further.

Look at a story in the front section of today's *Dispatch*. Can you find the answers to the 5 Ws?

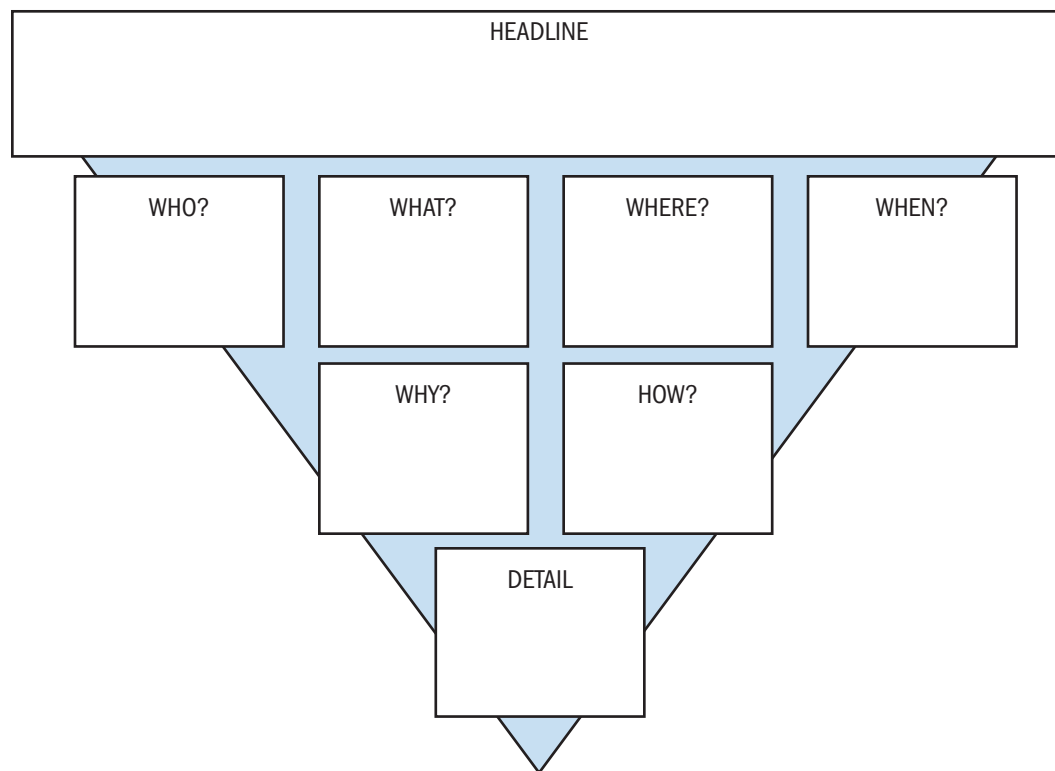
Be a Reporter

Directions: Try writing a newspaper article of your own. Pick a topic. Then answer the questions: who, what, where, when, why, and how. Use the diagram below to help organize your information. After you have written your article, be sure to come up with an interesting headline.



Inverted Pyramid

Directions: Newspaper reporters write hard news stories using an inverted pyramid, so you get the most important information first. Take a look at a front-page news story & fill out the diagram below.



Activities

1. Look at the front page of today's newspaper. For each of the news stories there, underline the who, what, where, when, why, and how. Did you find them at the beginning of the story? In the middle? At the end? Discuss what you found with others in your class. Did you all underline the same answers? Were the questions "why?" and "how?" always answered? Why or why not?
2. Work in pairs to conduct mock interviews. One of you is the reporter, and the other is the person being interviewed. Use a made-up topic, such as aliens landing or winning the lottery. Make sure to answer the 5 Ws for the story. Then write your story (include a great headline) & share it with the class.
3. Cut out a picture from the newspaper. Pretend you are the reporter and write your own story to go with the picture. Be sure to include the 5 Ws.