

# WRITING YOUR ARTICLE

Most newspaper articles break down into two categories:

- News articles
- Feature articles

You will also find opinion pieces, like editorials and book and movie reviews, but this lesson deals strictly with news and feature articles.

**Here's how you can tell the difference between a news story and a feature story.**

- *News articles cover the basics of current events.* They answer the questions: who, what, where, how, and when?
- *Feature articles are longer and more in depth* than regular news articles. They cover one subject from multiple angles and are written in a more creative, entertaining format. Although a news story can be creative and entertaining, too! Check out the examples below.

It is important to remember that both news and features demand the same level of research and reporting.

## The Basic Story Outline:

The best way to structure a newspaper article is to first write an outline. Review your research and notes. Then jot down ideas for the following six sections. Remember, this is just a foundation upon which to build your story!

### **I. Lead sentence**

Grab and hook your reader right away!

### **II. Introduction**

Which facts and figures will ground your story? You have to tell your readers where and when this story is happening.

### **III. Opening quotation**

What will give the reader a sense of the people involved and what they are thinking?

### **IV. Main body**

What is at the heart of your story?

### **V. Closing quotation**

Find something that sums the article up in a few words.

### **VI. Conclusion** (optional—the closing quote may do the job)

What is a memorable way to end your story? The end quote is a good way to sum things up. That doesn't always work. If you are quoting more than one person with different points of view in your story, you cannot end with a quote from just one of them. Giving one of your interviewees the last word can tilt the story in their favor.

*(Courtesy of scholastic.com)*

# APRIL 12, 1861: FORT SUMTER

## THE FIVE W'S:

**Who:**

**What:**

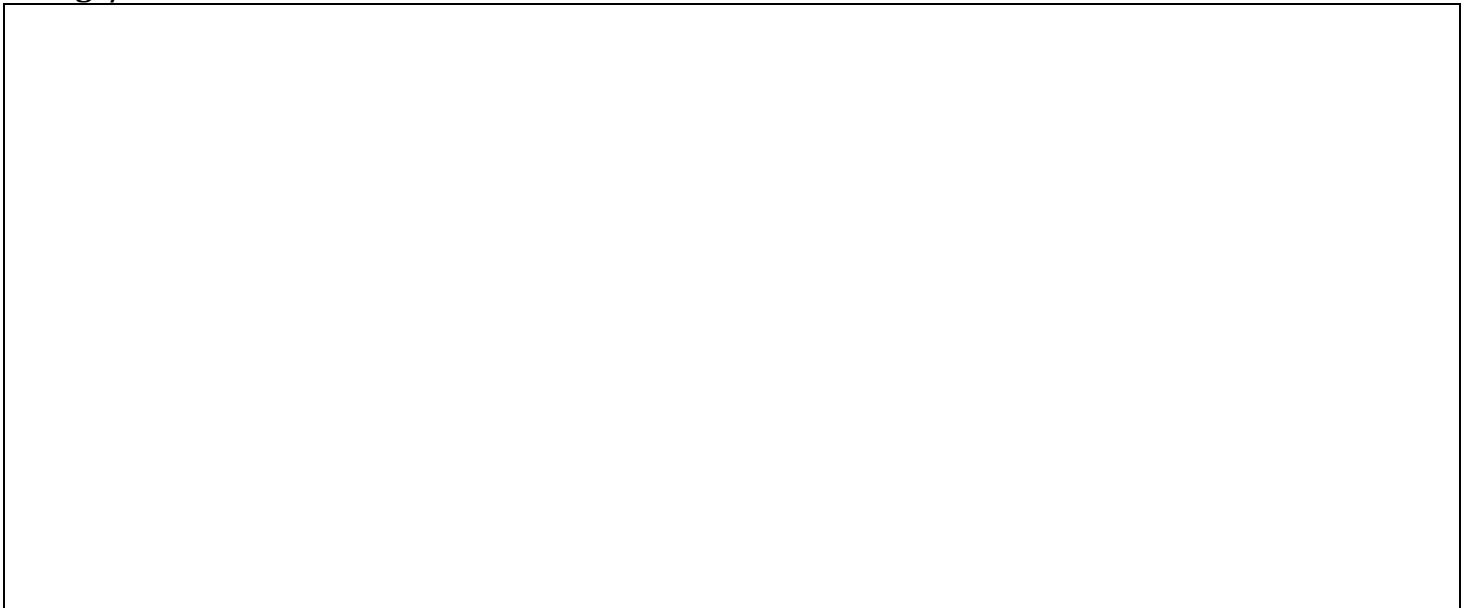
**Where:**

**When:**

**Why:**

**Quotes:**

**Image/Visuals for Your Article:**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to insert an image or visual related to the article topic.

## POLITICAL CARTOONS: BRAINSTORMING

1. What will be the message of your cartoon? Do you think others might interpret it differently? How so?
2. What objects, people or symbols do you want to incorporate?
3. What will these symbols represent?
4. What actions will take place in the cartoon?
5. Are you going to put any words? How will they help clarify the cartoon's symbols?

