

News Article Analysis

BLM
G-26

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Basic Information

Topic _____

Title of Article _____

Source _____

Country where Published _____

Author _____

Date _____

2. Why?

a) What was the purpose of the article? Why write it?

b) What is the intended audience? For whom was it written?

c) Why write it now?

d) Why is it available from this source? Do you think another paper/magazine/website would have printed it?

3. Look It Over

There are several kinds of content in an article:

- headline or title
- captions for visuals
- visuals (photos, map, chart, graph...)
- print article

Examine each one.

What is the headline or title?

What message do you get from the headline?

What photos or diagrams/charts are there?

What message do they give?

What are the captions on the visuals?

What message do they give?

4. Reading the Article

- Read the article. Write the main points below (e.g., Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?).

b) Compare the headline and the content of the article. Do they match? Did the headline make you expect a different story?

Propose a different headline that would still tell about the story but would have a different emphasis.

c) Compare the visuals and their captions to the main part of the article. How do the visuals affect your emotional response (e.g., sad, sorry...).

Suggest a different visual and a different caption to create a different emphasis.

d) Identify any loaded words or phrases with political, racial, economic bias. These can convey the writer's bias.

e) If there are "unnamed sources" or "some people say," list the information or opinions they cite.

Who do you think these sources are (e.g., government, business, political groups, environmental groups...). What difference would it make to your reading of the article if you knew who these people were?

f) What is the order of ideas in the story? How does this affect your reading of the article?

Does the author put all the dissenting (disagreement) at the end of the article? Are they given much space? What if they were at the beginning of the article?

- g) Think about what is NOT there. Which viewpoints are NOT present (e.g., the views of Aboriginal people, various ethnic or gender groups, age groups such as seniors, economic groups such as poor people, farmers...).

What other aspects of this story could the writer have included?

Judging by what is left out, what values does the writer show?

- h) How does this information compare with information you have read in other sources?

- i) How does this information compare with information read by a partner?