

Debate Reporting

Why do we need to report debates?



Why do we need to report debates?

- To inform your own, partner, or external debate clubs & communities.
- For accountability of the work done.
- To engage non-debaters.
- To make debate look more prestigious.



I. How to Write News

ONE
Keep it simple.

Remember: This
4th grader is
your reader.



TWO Keep it short.

near **not** adjacent

now **not** at this moment, or at the present time

during **not** in course of

before **not** prior to

because **not** in consequence of

from **not** as from

watched **not** observed

although **not** despite the fact that

THREE
Keep it **sweet.**

The boy told the truth.

versus

The truth was told by the boy.

The Senate passed the bill.

versus

The bill was passed.

The All-Important Lead

The lead is the first one or two sentences that tells the reader what the news article is about.

It is used to grab the reader's attention and keep him reading.

In any news article, the most important parts of the story, such as a death, gain or loss of money or community prominence, should be written or made known to the reader in the first sentence.

Read more on how to write lead [here](#) and [here](#).

TYPES

Hard or soft?

A national icon is not just larger than life, but larger than 10 basketball courts.

The massive mosaic of the late Corazon Aquino was unveiled by President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III on Saturday in celebration of anniversary of his mother’s death.

TYPES

Hard or soft?

President Benigno “Noy” Aquino III on Saturday unveiled a massive photo mosaic of his mother, the late president Corazon Aquino, in a tribute just before the first anniversary of her death.

5 W's and H: the meat and potatoes of your news articles

Your article must answer all of these questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How. Once you have answered these things, you can feel confident that you have adequately informed your readers

FOUR
Invest in your **nut graf**

WHO
WHAT
WHEN
WHERE
WHY
HOW



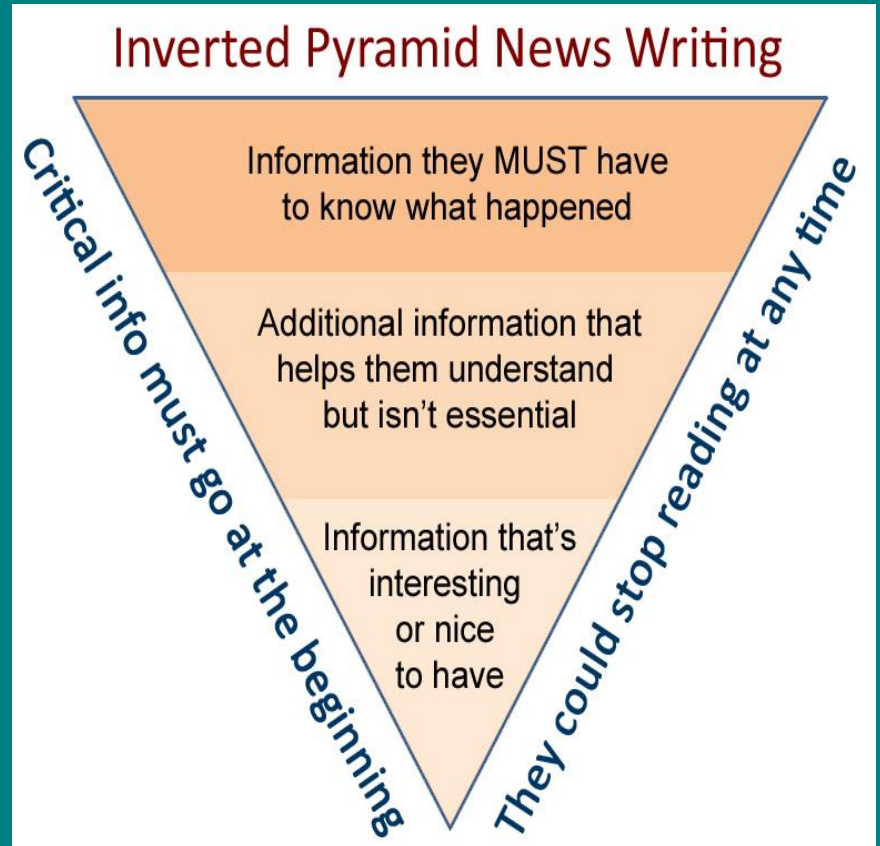
News Structure

Inverted pyramid

is a method used in journalistic writing where the broad and important information comes first in the story, and the more narrow facts follow.

[Read more>>>](#)

Example. If you are writing a story about a large debate tournament finished you would mention the winner first, and then report other details regarding the participants (clubs, countries, amount, etc.)



Inverted Pyramid: example

Newcastle bus and car crash leaves man dead

MOST IMPORTANT FACTS
(WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN WHY)

A 39-year-old man has died after a car and a bus driving in opposite directions crashed in Newcastle. The incident happened at about 21:00 BST on Sunday when...

DETAILS

...a white Audi R8 and a single decker bus collided on the Great North Road (B1318) in Gosforth. The driver of the car was pronounced dead at the scene.

TIDBITS

The 61-year-old male driver of the bus was released by the fire and rescue service and taken to hospital with minor injuries. The road was closed for five hours.

Example



NFL notebook: Are Colts rusty or ready?

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts felt like they spent last week at boot camp.

Four-time MVP Peyton Manning tested himself against his own defense, the tempo was quick and the intensity increased. To first-year coach Jim Caldwell, this is how you use a bye week to get ready — not rusty — for the playoffs.

"It really got the competitive juices flowing," defensive end Dwight Freeney said. "The only difference between a game and a hard practice for the defense is the finishing of a tackle. We are going full speed. We are running and we are fighting."

Worried Colts fans couldn't seek a better endorsement for change, though they'll certainly withhold judgment about the effectiveness of Caldwell's new tactics until seeing results.

The annual debate over Indy's playoff preparation has generated national attention this year because of the team's decision to rest starters and focus on the postseason rather than playing for a perfect season.

"To first-year coach Jim Caldwell..." is a transition from the fact into the quote.

Words such as: **"according to the coach,"** or **"To..."** provide smooth transitions into a quote or new fact without asserting an opinion.

What's wrong with these news?

1. Path to equality“, a new project of Croatian Debating Society

Croatian Debating Society (HDD) has launched a new project this month under the name "Path to equality" with a goal to increase the civic participation of young people, especially young Roma in Croatia.

“Path of equality” Project is a kind of caravan that will visit ten cities across Croatia (Zagreb, Cakovec, Sisak, Kutina, Beli, Slavonski Brod, Rijeka, Pula, Motovun and Vodnjan) during the period of June and July, that way communicating and educating the local population about the importance of inclusion and active participation of the citizens in society. The main objective of the project is to raise awareness about the importance of understanding and acceptance of diversity through various activities such as public hearings, seminars for teachers, photography workshops, fairs CSOs, Forum Theatre and many others.

IDEA SEE is part of the planning and implementation of the activities, among other things, by adapting and publishing the Hungarian book on the [Roma Holocaust](#), [Pharrajimos](#), for Croatian readers. For further information and more about the project visit: www.putjednakosti.hdd.hr.

“Path to equality” Project is part of the "Together" Program of the Croatian Debating Society (HDD) and funded by Open Society Foundation.

2. GDPPC Forum: 5 winners of \$10,000 revealed

Seham Areff from South Africa, Undine Rubeze from Latvia, Martin Kiik from Estonia, Anil Pulickel from India and Andrew Walsh from United Kingdom are the winners of this year [Global Debate and Public Policy Challenge](#) Forum held in Budapest from 17 - 21 June. All winners will receive either a \$10,000 scholarship payable to a Graduate School of the winner's choice for study in a field related to Public Policy or a \$10,000 grant payable to a non-profit institution of the winner's choice for an internship or placement in a field related to Public Policy. The winners get to choose the option they prefer.

Winners didn't have an easy job to get the prize. In the first phase they were competing against 2,000 students from which only 200 were selected in the second phase of GDPPC. After submitting their policy briefs in the second phase only 38 participants from 20 countries were chosen to participate in the final event and to have the chance to compete for one of the prizes.

"QUOTE" - said Anil Pulickel, one of the GDPPC winners.

This year's team for GDPPC was “Digital Freedom and its Limits”. The theme focuses among others on questions of internet governance, online censorship, and freedom of expression on the Internet. Participants in the GDPPC forum had five days full of workshops on public policy advocacy, public speaking and communication, lot of discussions with relevant [speakers](#) for the GDPPC theme as well as time for Budapest sightseeing and organized visit to the Hungarian parliament.

"QUOTE". - said Undine Rubeze from Latvia and one of the five winners.

Next year theme for Global Debate and Public Policy Challenge is going to be on "International Drug Policy". More info soon on [GDPPC website](#).

GDPPC is jointly organized by...

II. How to cover debate

1. Media Strategy for Debating events

1.1. Find out your channel to spread info:

- You website
- Partner website
- Youth organisations website
- Youth media (e.g. journalism students outlet)
- Local media
- National media

1.2. Find out what kind of coverage your partner media needs.



1.3. Arrange a press-conference a couple of days before the event (if the event is big):

- invite potentially interested media by sending invitations containing basic description of the event.
 - prepare press-releases containing basic info about the event, (check out key dates, facts, names, links to be presented) for the press-conference.
- ### **4. Provide media partners with updated information at certain time or on demand** (according to previously set up agreement.

!Tips!

- You need media as well as they need you as an information break. Just make you offer smells good and looks attractive
- Try to be as punctual as possible. Journalists have tons of stuff todo; if you don't translate promises into actions this time, they will ignore you next time.
- Promote you event via social networks as much as you can.

III. Debate Event: Reporting Scheme

Before the event

- Preview news piece answering 5 W's & H questions.

During the event

- Feature articles (e.g. describing the progress of event, its atmosphere, participants, topics discussed)
- Blog entries by debaters, trainers, judges etc.
- Video interviews with participants
- Photo reports (N.B. try to provide each of your text piece with photo)
- Video of debates

When it's finished

- Final news articles with principal results.
- More detailed piece with full results, tabs, all the motions (when it's ready).

[EXAMPLE: Asian Youth Forum IDEA 2013 coverage by ru.idebate.org >>>](http://ru.idebate.org)

Why don't debaters want to report debates?



Why don't debaters want to report debates?

- They good *speakers*, not *writers*.
- They *play debate*, it's an entertainment thing for them, rather than a serious business.
- Debate is hobby, it's not payed, no time for this.



What do you think of reporting
debate now?



Thank you!

By [Kastus Lashkevich](#),
*journalist, Russian
programmes coordinator at
IDEA-UK.*

Credits

- Camille Diola. [‘The language of print’ presentation.](#)
- Teronica Gaiter. [‘How to Write a Basic News Article.’](#)
- Tracee Orman. [‘Common Core Tips: Using Transitional Words in Writing.’](#)
- Junta Sekimori. [‘How to incite fear and hatred with data.’](#)
- Tony Rogers. [‘How to Structure News Stories.’](#)