Sports Stories

Types of Sports Stories

Straight News:

- Only presents the facts
- Uses inverted pyramid
- Uses regular news leads
- Reports about game results
- May include team roster, schedule

Background Story:

- Informs using history, tradition, significance, personalities
- Lively, entertaining
- Summarizes early on (not necessarily in lead)

Prediction Story:

- Should avoid bias and wishful thinking
- Present logical analysis of facts
- Compares team records
- Combines upcoming games with past

Sports Vs. News

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<th>Sports</th>
<th>News</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reports Facts</td>
<td>Reports Facts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ordered Importance</td>
<td>Ordered Importance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grabbing Lead</td>
<td>Grabbing Lead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal Tone</td>
<td>Somewhat Formal Tone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some Opinion</td>
<td>No Opinion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overuses Jargon</td>
<td>Usually Avoids Jargon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorful, Quick Tempo</td>
<td>Not Necessarily Colorful</td>
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Requirements of Good Sportswriting:

- Know or learn the sport (rules, team, record…)
- Follow team through practice
- Know players and coaches well
- Accurate observation
- Back up opinion with facts and knowledge
- Quick, accurate notetaking
- Avoid jargon
- Fair, basically unbiased
• Avoid overly technical terms
• Descriptive
• Look for colorful angles
• Informal
• Avoid glorifying team, players

**Sports Article: Journalism**
Requirements for your story:

• Length: Around 500 words
• Creative Headline
• Byline
• Attach interview questions and responses to those questions (if you had interviews--if you do interviews, you need to complete two--students should be from outside this class)
• The sport you write about should have some tie to East High students (or be of interest to East High students)
• Includes statistics and team/sport facts
• Shows your knowledge of the sport (remember: fans know if you’re right)
• Combines quotes with information about the game/sporting event
• You should adhere to the guidelines of the type of story you're doing: news, editorial, and feature--you've already completed these types of stories.