

## How to Structure a News Story

The structure of a news story is the pattern of development that determines the order and placement of the elements of parts of the story.

- Every news story should have a clear and obvious structure.
- The classic structure for most news stories is called the [inverted-pyramid structure](#).
  - In a sense, the inverted-pyramid structure tells the story backwards.
  - The inverted-pyramid structure places facts in descending order of importance.
- When you run out of interesting things to say, stop writing.
- Feature stories are more likely to use structures other than the inverted-pyramid structure.

- The hourglass or champagne-glass structure uses a chronological storytelling technique.
- The Wall Street Journal structure begins with a soft lead followed by a “nut graf,” supporting points, and an ending that refers to the lead.
- Multiple-element stories mention several elements in the lead and cover each in a separate section of the story:
  - apples, oranges, and bananas
  - apples
  - apples
  - apples
  - oranges
  - oranges
  - oranges
  - bananas
  - bananas
  - bananas

- apples, oranges, and bananas
- Consider breaking out a part of the story to a sidebar or box.
- Let the content of the story determine the structure.
- Good quotes give life to a story.
- Always consider deleting the last paragraph.