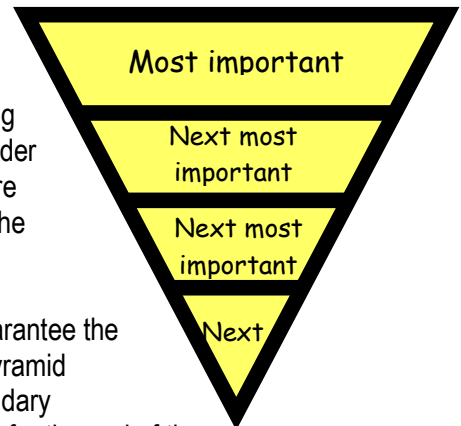


# SATIRE PROJECT – Writing a Satirical Article (individual project)

## Journalistic Writing

News writing is a special form of writing that requires the writer to select the important information of the day and interpret issues for the reader. In doing so, the writer must convey the information in such a way as to keep the reader interested. Compounding this is the fact that most readers do not read more than the first five paragraphs of an article. This puts extreme pressure on the writer to put the most important information at the top of an article.

Journalists use inverted pyramid structure because it is the best way to guarantee the reader gets all the ‘nuts and bolts’ of a story early in the article. Inverted pyramid requires that all the important information is provided at the start, the secondary information is included in the middle, and the least important details are left for the end of the article.



## Step 1: Brainstorm and Research

Brainstorm a current event/topic which piques your interest. Make sure the topic is important enough that you can gather several news reports on it. Then examine the news articles you collected to determine key information:

- Who are key players in this issue?
- What causes/effects surround this issue?
- How pervasive is the issue / how well known is this issue?
- What research/evidence/statistics have been collected about this issue?
- What statements have others made on this issue (you may need actual language)?
- Highlight the pertinent information in your real news articles and/or other research (quotations, statistics, people or places, other data, etc) and attach these sources to your finished satire article

## Step 2: Organize and Write

Once you have all the ‘hard facts’ that you need, you can begin writing your article.

- suggestion: use your *Onion* handouts as examples of satirical articles
- structure your article to follow the examples we’ve read and the guidelines presented here – make sure there is a clear voice for the issue (provided through quotes), there is evidence to back your position, and a logical flow of information
- try to remain objective and use third person, this will aid in your presentation of a satirical news article – some of the *Onion* pieces were actually editorials and not news articles
- you are allowed to create persons who are “interviewed” for your article – obviously these are fictional personalities, but the characters should be believable and readers should “get” why these persons were “interviewed” for the topic
- your article should be about 1 ½ pages
- include a headline for your piece – this should appear as a real news headline, yet should indicate the content of your article

## Assessment

- You will be assessed on your ability to effectively satirize your chosen issue while maintaining a serious, objective tone. See project rubric for more detail.