

STORY STRUCTURE

Rearrange a Story



Objectives (Students will learn how to):

- Identify the most important information in news stories
- Spot different story structures in practice
- Determine which order information should come in in accordance with three different, commonly utilized story structures

Materials:

- Envelopes
- Scissors
- Printed out copies of the following stories (The number of copies needed will be at the instructor's discretion as this activity can be conducted individually or in small groups):
 - [Prosper committee votes 7-0 against data center operation](#)
 - [NEWS: Leavenworth ICE Detention Center](#)
 - [Dogs 'hang 20' at Helen Woodward's annual dog surfing contest](#)

Sequence:

1. Prior to the time of instruction, print out as many copies of each story as needed. (One copy per story, per student if doing the activity individually. 1 copy per story, per # number of students if conducting the activity in small groups.)
2. Cut up each story so that each paragraph is on its own slip of paper.
3. Put all of the paragraphs from one story into an envelope that is labeled with the story's corresponding structure:
 - Inverted Pyramid: [Prosper committee votes 7-0 against data center operation](#)
 - Hourglass: [Dogs 'hang 20' at Helen Woodward's annual dog surfing contest*](#)
 - LQTQ: [NEWS: Leavenworth ICE Detention Center](#)
4. Following the [SNO Story Structure Presentation](#), students should be familiar with the structure of the aforementioned story models. For each story, ask them to rearrange the paragraphs in accordance with their labeled structure.
5. Once each group has completed this with all three stories, pull up the actual story online and allow students to compare the results with the original. Recap as a class.

**Advisers, this particular story does not contain a turn, but otherwise fits the hourglass style format of basic news into a narrative structure – consider drafting your own sentence/paragraph to serve as the turn or pick a different story. We will update this link soon.*