

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):
 - [Dobbs Ferry holds special election; residents vote to opt out of dispensaries](#)
 - [Dublin teens allegedly attack Cal student in class last week](#)
 - [A step toward sustainability: California bans single-use plastics in hotels](#)

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: Dobbs Ferry holds special election; residents vote to opt out of dispensaries
 - Hourglass: Dublin teens allegedly attack Cal student in class last week
 - LQTQ: A step toward sustainability: California bans single-use plastics in hotels
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.