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# The News Navigator: A Guide to Journalistic Texts

## Materials Needed:

- Laptop or tablet with internet access
  - A selection of pre-bookmarked online articles (1 sports news report, 1 science feature, 1 opinion editorial on a familiar topic)
  - Digital or physical notebook and pen/pencil
  - Digital or physical highlighters in at least three different colors
  - A simple graphic organizer for opinion writing (e.g., a chart with sections for "My Claim," "Reason 1," "Evidence/Example 1," "Reason 2," "Evidence/Example 2," "Conclusion")
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## Learning Objectives (SMART)

By the end of this 90-minute lesson, Aira Marie will be able to:

- **Cognitive (To Know):** Analyze three different journalistic articles (sports news, science feature, and opinion editorial) to identify their specific text structure and explain how that structure supports the author's purpose with 90% accuracy.
  - **Psychomotor (To Do):** Construct a short opinion editorial (150-200 words) on a self-selected topic, correctly applying a persuasive text structure (claim, reasons, evidence) to clearly convey her viewpoint.
  - **Affective (To Value):** Articulate an appreciation for how writers use different text structures to influence a reader's thoughts and feelings, sharing at least two personal insights during the final reflection.
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## Lesson Procedure

### Part 1: The Warm-Up - "What's the Angle?" (15 minutes)

#### Instructional Strategy: Inquiry-Based Learning, Discussion

The goal here is to spark curiosity and activate prior knowledge about how news is presented.

1. **Headline Challenge:** Present Aira Marie with three different headlines about the same fictional event. For example:
    - **Headline A (News):** "Dragons Win Championship in Final Second"
    - **Headline B (Feature):** "The Rookie Who Saved the Season: An Inside Look at the Dragon's Star Player"
    - **Headline C (Editorial):** "It's Time to Change the Playoff Rules"
  2. **Guided Discussion:** Ask a series of engaging questions:
    - "Without reading the articles, what kind of information do you expect to find in each one?"
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- "Which article do you think will be mostly facts? Which one will have the most feelings or opinions?"
  - "How will the way the information is organized be different in each one?"
3. **Introduce the Mission:** Explain, "Today, you're a News Navigator. Your mission is to understand *how* journalists build these different articles. The 'how' is their text structure, and it's their secret tool for getting their message across."

## Part 2: Text Detectives - Deconstructing the Articles (30 minutes)

### Instructional Strategy: Hands-on Analysis, Direct Instruction

This activity makes abstract concepts tangible by having Aira Marie actively break down real-world examples.

1. **Case File 1: Sports News (The Inverted Pyramid).**
  - Open the pre-selected sports news article. Briefly explain the "Inverted Pyramid" structure: Most important information (Who, What, Where, When, Why) is at the top, with details becoming less critical as you read down.
  - **Your Task:** Using a highlighter (e.g., yellow), have Aira Marie find and highlight the "5 Ws" in the first one or two paragraphs. Then, ask her to notice how the later paragraphs just add extra details.
2. **Case File 2: Science Feature (The Narrative/Descriptive Structure).**
  - Open the science feature article (e.g., about a new discovery or technology). Explain that features often tell a story. They have a beginning (a hook), a middle (the journey of discovery, explanation), and an end (the impact or future).
  - **Your Task:** Using a different color highlighter (e.g., pink), have her highlight the "hook" or opening story, the main explanatory part in the middle, and the concluding thought. Discuss how this feels different from the direct news report.
3. **Case File 3: Opinion Editorial (The Persuasive Structure).**
  - Open the opinion editorial. Explain that its goal is to convince the reader. The structure is usually: State a claim/opinion -> Provide reasons backed by evidence -> Conclude with a call to action or strong final thought.
  - **Your Task:** Using a third color (e.g., blue), have Aira Marie highlight the author's main opinion (the claim), and then find at least two reasons or pieces of evidence they use to support it.

## Part 3: Your Turn at the Editor's Desk (35 minutes)

### Instructional Strategy: Creative Application, Student-Centered Project

This is the core creative task where Aira Marie applies her new knowledge. This directly addresses the psychomotor objective.

1. **Brainstorm Your Passion:** Ask Aira Marie, "What's something you have a strong opinion about? It could be about a book, a movie, a game, a rule at home, or a topic in the world." Help her brainstorm a few ideas.
2. **Choose Your Topic and Plan Your Argument:** She selects one topic. Provide her with the simple opinion writing graphic organizer. Guide her to fill it out:
  - **My Claim:** What is her main point? (e.g., "The new 'Starlight Odyssey' game is the best RPG of the year.")
  - **Reason 1 & Evidence:** (e.g., "The storyline is incredibly immersive. For example, the character backstories are deep and affect the quests.")

- **Reason 2 & Evidence:** (e.g., "The graphics are stunning. The world of 'Aethelgard' feels alive with detail.")
  - **Conclusion:** How can she sum up her point powerfully? (e.g., "For these reasons, 'Starlight Odyssey' is a must-play for any serious gamer.")
3. **Write Your Editorial:** Now, she uses her plan to write a short (150-200 word) opinion editorial. Emphasize that the goal is clarity and structure, not perfection. She is building an argument, just like the editorial writer she just analyzed.

## Part 4: Debrief and Reflection (10 minutes)

### Instructional Strategy: Metacognitive Reflection, Discussion

This final part solidifies the learning and addresses the affective objective.

1. **Share and Celebrate:** Ask Aira Marie to read her editorial aloud. Praise her for using a clear structure to support her opinion.
2. **Reflective Questions:**
  - "Now that you've written your own editorial, how does it change how you see the ones we read?"
  - "If you wanted to just get facts quickly about a game, would you rather read a news article or a feature article? Why?"
  - "Why do you think it's important for a reader (like you!) to know what kind of article you're reading? How does it help you not be tricked by opinions presented as facts?"
  - "Which text structure was most interesting to you today?"
3. **Looking Ahead:** Conclude by saying, "You've earned your News Navigator badge! From now on, whenever you read an article online, see if you can spot its structure. You'll be a smarter, more critical reader."

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