

Aira Marie's Newsroom Adventure: Decoding the Secrets of Journalism

Materials Needed:

- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Notebook or journal (your official "Reporter's Notebook")
- Pens, pencils, highlighters, and markers
- Printer (optional, for printing articles and templates)
- Large sheet of paper or poster board (or a digital tool like Canva/Google Docs)
- Scissors and glue stick (if creating a physical layout)
- A curated list of online articles (links provided in the lesson)

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

1. **(Cognitive) Analyze** and **differentiate** between news, feature, and opinion editorial structures in journalistic texts about sports and science/technology.
2. **(Psychomotor) Create** a one-page "mini-magazine" spread by writing and arranging three distinct articles (news, feature, editorial) on a single topic of your choice.
3. **(Affective) Appreciate** how an author's choice of text structure can influence a reader's thoughts and feelings about a topic, fostering a greater sense of media literacy.

Lesson Activities

Part 1: The Mission Briefing - Becoming a Text Detective (15 Minutes)

Hello, Aira Marie! Welcome to your very own newsroom. Today, you're not just a reader; you're a detective. Your mission is to uncover how journalists use different "blueprints" or **text structures** to build their stories. These structures aren't accidental—they are chosen specifically to inform, entertain, or persuade you!

Let's look at a quick example. Imagine your favorite video game just got a new update.

- A **News Report** would state the facts: "Game X released Patch 5.2 today, adding three new characters and a new map. The download is 10GB." (Purpose: To Inform)
- A **Feature Article** would tell a story: "Behind the Pixels: Meet the Artist Who Designed Game X's Newest Hero. For Maria Santos, it started with a simple sketch..." (Purpose: To Entertain/Explore)
- An **Opinion Editorial** would argue a point: "Why Patch 5.2 is a Game-Changer. The developers have finally listened to the players, and this update proves it." (Purpose: To Persuade)

See how the same topic can be presented in three totally different ways? Today, you'll learn to spot these structures in the wild!

Part 2: The Investigation - Analyzing Real-World Texts (30 Minutes)

Time to put on your detective hat! We'll examine texts from two exciting fields: **Sports** and **Science & Technology**. For each link below, your task is to identify its structure and purpose.

In your Reporter's Notebook, create a simple chart like this for each article you read:

Article Topic & Link	What is the Text Structure? (News, Feature, or Opinion)	What is the Author's Main Purpose? (Inform, Entertain, or Persuade)	Clues I Found (e.g., uses facts, personal stories, strong opinions, emotional words)

Case File #1: Sports Journalism

- **Exhibit A (News):** A game recap from a major sports news site (e.g., ESPN, Bleacher Report). Find an article about a recent game that gives the score and key plays.
- **Exhibit B (Feature):** A profile of an athlete. Search for an article titled "The Rise of [Athlete's Name]" or "A Day in the Life of [Athlete's Name]."
- **Exhibit C (Opinion):** A sports columnist's article. Look for a headline with a strong opinion, like "Why [Team Name] Must Trade Their Star Player" or "[Coach's Name] Is the Best in the League."

Case File #2: Science & Technology Journalism

- **Exhibit A (News):** A report on a new discovery or product launch (e.g., from NASA's website, TechCrunch, or Wired). Search for "NASA discovers new planet" or "Apple unveils new iPhone."
- **Exhibit B (Feature):** An article explaining a complex topic in a fun way. Look for titles like "How Do Black Holes Actually Work?" or "The Incredible Journey of the Mars Rover."
- **Exhibit C (Opinion):** A tech review or editorial. Search for an article with a title like "Why the Newest Smartphone is a Disappointment" or "Artificial Intelligence is the Future of Everything."

(Teacher's Note: Spend about 5-7 minutes on each type of article. The goal is to identify the pattern, not read every single word.)

Part 3: The Editor-in-Chief Challenge - Create Your Own Story! (45-60 Minutes)

Great detective work, Aira Marie! Now it's your turn to be the writer and editor. You are the Editor-in-Chief of your very own magazine!

1. **Choose a Topic You LOVE:** It can be anything—your favorite book or movie, a new scientific discovery you find cool, a hobby you enjoy, or your favorite athlete.
2. **Write Three Articles:** On that single topic, write three short articles (they can be just one paragraph each!):
 - A **News Report:** Stick to the 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why). Be objective and factual. Give it a clear, informative headline.
 - A **Feature Story:** Tell a story! Use descriptive language. Focus on an interesting person, place, or detail related to your topic. Give it a creative, catchy headline.
 - An **Opinion Editorial (Op-Ed):** Share YOUR opinion! Use strong, persuasive words like "I believe," "the best," or "we must." State your case and try to convince your reader. Give it a bold, argumentative headline.
3. **Design Your Magazine Page:** Grab your large paper or open a digital canvas. Arrange your three articles on the page. Give your magazine a name. You can add drawings, print out pictures, or use digital images. Think about how the layout helps tell the stories. This is where

your creativity shines!

Part 4: The Reporter's Reflection - Final Thoughts (15 Minutes)

Your magazine page looks amazing! For your final task, open your Reporter's Notebook and reflect on today's mission. Answer these two questions:

1. Of the three articles you wrote, which one do you think would have the biggest impact on a reader's feelings or opinions? Why do you think that style of writing is so powerful?
2. Now that you are a Text Detective, how will this new skill change the way you read news and other articles online?

Congratulations, Aira Marie! You've successfully decoded the structures of journalistic writing and proven that you have what it takes to run your own newsroom. Mission accomplished!