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# News Navigator: Decoding the Blueprint of Articles

## Materials Needed:

- Tablet or computer with internet access
- Printer (optional, for printing articles)
- A selection of online or printed articles:
  - An opinion editorial on a topic Aira Marie finds interesting (e.g., gaming, social media, a new movie)
  - A sports news report (summary of a recent game)
  - A sports feature story (profile of an athlete)
  - A science/technology news article (announcement of a new phone or discovery)
  - A science/technology editorial (arguing for or against a certain technology)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- A large piece of paper or poster board
- Highlighters (3 different colors)
- Aira Marie's journal or a notebook and pen

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## Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you (Aira Marie) will be able to:

1. **(Cognitive) Analyze** how the structure of different journalistic texts (opinion, news, feature) contributes to their purpose by correctly identifying the key structural elements in at least two different articles.
2. **(Psychomotor) Create** a "Text Structure Mash-up" poster by cutting and arranging parts of different articles to visually demonstrate their unique structures, completing the task within 30 minutes.
3. **(Affective) Express** an appreciation for how text structure shapes a message by writing a journal reflection on which article type you find most persuasive and why.

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## Lesson Proper

### Part 1: Explore (5-10 minutes) - Headline Detective

Hello, Aira Marie! Today, we're going to become text detectives. I'm going to show you just the headlines of three different articles. Your first mission is to investigate these clues!

#### Instructions:

1. Read these three headlines:
  - **Headline A:** "Lakers Secure Victory Over Celtics in Nail-Biting Final Minute, 101-100"

- **Headline B:** "Why Video Games Are the Best Storytelling Medium of Our Generation"
  - **Headline C:** "From Basement Coder to Tech CEO: The Untold Story of Maya Singh"
2. For each headline, let's discuss:
- What do you predict the article will be about?
  - What is the author's main goal: To inform you of facts quickly? To persuade you to agree with them? Or to tell you an entertaining story?
  - What feeling does the headline give you? (Urgent, thoughtful, curious?)

**Teacher's Note:** This quick warm-up shows how authors use just a few words to signal their purpose, which is the first step in understanding structure!

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## Part 2: Firm-Up (15-20 minutes) - The Journalist's Toolkit

Great detective work! Just like a builder needs a blueprint, a writer needs a structure. Let's look at the three main "blueprints" journalists use.

### Instructions:

We will quickly go over "The Journalist's Toolkit," which explains the structure and purpose of each text type. We can write this down in your notebook as a reference guide.

- **1. News Articles (Sports, Sci-Tech) - The Inverted Pyramid**
  - **Purpose:** To inform the reader of essential facts as quickly as possible.
  - **Structure:** The most important information (Who, What, Where, When, Why) comes first in the lead paragraph. Less important details follow. Imagine an upside-down triangle!
- **2. Feature Articles (Sports, Sci-Tech) - The Story Arc**
  - **Purpose:** To entertain, explore a topic in-depth, and connect with the reader emotionally.
  - **Structure:** Like a good story. It starts with a hook (an anecdote or vivid description), develops characters or ideas in the middle, and ends with a satisfying conclusion or reflection.
- **3. Opinion Editorials - The Argument**
  - **Purpose:** To persuade the reader to accept a specific point of view.
  - **Structure:** Builds a logical case. It starts with a strong claim (thesis), supports it with evidence and reasoning, may address counterarguments, and ends with a powerful conclusion or a call to action.

**Guided Practice:** Let's pick one of the news articles. Take a highlighter and let's find the "Who, What, Where, When, and Why" in the very first paragraph. See? The inverted pyramid gives you everything you need to know right away!

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## Part 3: Deepen (20-30 minutes) - Text Structure Mash-up!

Now it's time for a hands-on challenge that will really lock in this knowledge. Get your scissors and glue ready—we're going to deconstruct and reconstruct our articles!

### Instructions:

1. Choose three articles from our collection: one **news report**, one **feature**, and one **opinion**
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**editorial.**

2. On your large paper or poster board, create three columns and label them with the article types.
3. Carefully cut the articles into their main structural parts (e.g., headline, lead paragraph, body paragraphs with evidence/quotes, concluding paragraph).
4. Your mission is to glue each piece into the correct column, arranging it in the proper order for that text's structure.
5. As you place the pieces, you can add small labels. For the news article, you might label the first paragraph "The 5 W's." For the opinion piece, you could label the "Author's Main Claim" and "Supporting Evidence."

**Teacher's Note:** This activity helps you physically interact with the text structures, making the abstract concepts tangible and memorable. Have fun with it!

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### **Part 4: Transfer (10-15 minutes) - You're the Editor-in-Chief!**

Amazing work on the mash-up! For your final task, you're being promoted. You are now the Editor-in-Chief of a new online magazine. Three writers have pitched you ideas. You need to tell them which text structure they should use to make their article most effective.

**Instructions:**

Read each pitch below. In your notebook, write down which structure (News, Feature, or Opinion) is the best fit and write one sentence explaining **why**.

- **Pitch #1:** "I want to write an article that argues that all students should learn basic computer coding in school to prepare for the future."
- **Pitch #2:** "I have the inside scoop on the surprise launch of a brand-new virtual reality headset that was just announced an hour ago!"
- **Pitch #3:** "I want to tell the incredible and moving life story of the scientist who invented the battery for the first-ever implantable pacemaker."

**Final Reflection (Journal Entry):**

To wrap up, please answer this question in your journal:

*"Of all the articles we looked at today, which one did you find the most interesting or powerful? Do you think its structure (the way it was built) helped make it so effective? Why or why not?"*

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