

# Lesson Plan: The Text Detective's Toolkit

**Subject: English Grade 8**

**Learning Competency: EN8INF-III-1**

Examine text structures for clarity of meaning and purpose in journalistic texts (opinion editorials, sports articles, and science/technology articles).

## Materials Needed:

- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Printer (optional, for printing articles and worksheets)
- A curated selection of 6-8 digital or print articles:
  - 1-2 opinion editorials (on any topic)
  - A sports news report, a sports feature, and a sports editorial
  - A science/tech news report, a science/tech feature, and a science/tech editorial
- Notebook or journal (for reflection)
- Colored pens, markers, or highlighters
- Scissors and glue stick (for scrapbook activity)
- Large sheet of paper or a section in a notebook for the "Journalist's Scrapbook"
- Handout 1: "Text Structure Toolkit" Infographic (can be created or found online)
- Handout 2: "Article Autopsy" Graphic Organizer

## Learning Objectives:

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

1. **(Cognitive)** Correctly identify and differentiate the text structures (news, feature, editorial) and purposes of at least three different journalistic articles using a graphic organizer with 90% accuracy.
2. **(Psychomotor)** Create a one-page "Journalist's Scrapbook" by cutting, pasting, and annotating examples of an opinion editorial, a sports news article, and a science feature article, clearly labeling the key structural elements of each.
3. **(Affective)** Articulate the importance of recognizing different text structures in becoming a more critical and informed reader by writing a short reflection journal entry.

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## Lesson Proper (EFDT Model)

### Part 1: EXPLORE - The Headline Challenge (10 minutes)

#### Introduction (Hook):

"Welcome, Aira Marie! Today, you're not just a student; you're a Text Detective. Every article you read has a secret identity—a hidden purpose. Your first mission is to crack the code of these headlines. I'm going to show you three headlines, and you have to guess the author's main mission: just the facts (Inform), to change your mind (Persuade), or to tell a great story (Entertain/Engage)?"

1. **Headline 1:** "Robotic Rover Finds Evidence of Ancient Lake on Mars"

2. **Headline 2:** "Why Smart Homes Are a Threat to Our Privacy"
3. **Headline 3:** "The Unbelievable Comeback: How an Underdog Team Defied the Odds"

### Discussion Questions:

- Which one sounds like it will be packed with facts and data? Why?
- Which one seems like it wants to convince you of something? What words give you that clue?
- Which one sounds like it will tell a dramatic, emotional story?

**Transition:** "Great detective work! You've just discovered that headlines are clues to a text's structure and purpose. Today, we're going to build your official 'Text Detective's Toolkit' so you can analyze any journalistic article like a pro."

## Part 2: FIRM-UP - Building Your Toolkit (20 minutes)

### I Do (Direct Instruction):

"Every detective needs their tools. Let's look at our 'Text Structure Toolkit' infographic (Handout 1). It shows the three main blueprints journalists use."

- **News Report (The Inverted Pyramid):**
  - **Purpose:** To inform quickly and efficiently.
  - **Structure:** Most important information (Who, What, When, Where, Why) is at the top. Details get less important as you go down. It's built for speed reading. The tone is objective and factual.
- **Feature Article (The Story Diamond):**
  - **Purpose:** To entertain, engage, and explore a topic in-depth.
  - **Structure:** Starts with a hook (anecdote, description), builds up with details, quotes, and storytelling, has a climax or main point in the middle, and ends with a memorable conclusion. It's more creative and personal.
- **Editorial/Opinion (The Persuasion Pillar):**
  - **Purpose:** To persuade the reader to agree with a specific viewpoint.
  - **Structure:** Built like an argument. It introduces a claim, supports it with evidence and reasoning, may address counterarguments, and ends with a strong call to action or concluding thought. The tone is subjective and biased.

### We Do (Guided Practice):

"Let's be co-detectives. Here is a short sports news article. Let's read the first two paragraphs together. Can we spot the 5 Ws? (Who, What, Where, When, Why). Okay, now let's skim the rest. Does it get more detailed? This follows the Inverted Pyramid. We'll use our highlighters to color-code the key parts." (Guide Aira Marie through highlighting the lead, a key fact, and a quote in one sample article.)

## Part 3: DEEPEN - The Article Autopsy (25 minutes)

### You Do (Independent Practice):

"Now it's your turn to lead the investigation, Detective Aira Marie! I have a case file of articles for you (a science news report, a sports feature, and an opinion editorial). Your mission is to perform an 'Article Autopsy' on each one using this graphic organizer (Handout 2)."

### Instructions for the "Article Autopsy" Graphic Organizer:

For each article, fill out the following fields:

- **Article Title:**
- **Type of Text (Hypothesis):** (Is it News, Feature, or Editorial?)
- **Clue #1: The Headline & Lead:** (What does the headline promise? Does the first paragraph give the 5 Ws or is it a creative hook?)
- **Clue #2: The Body's Blueprint:** (Is it an inverted pyramid of facts, a story with descriptions, or a pillar of arguments?)
- **Clue #3: Language Used:** (Is the language mostly factual and objective, or emotional and persuasive? Find one example of each.)
- **Final Verdict: The Author's Purpose:** (To inform, persuade, or engage?)

**Formative Assessment Check-in:** Circulate and check Aira Marie's progress on the first article's autopsy, providing feedback and guidance as needed. "I see you identified the hook in this feature article. Great job! What makes it different from the lead of a news report?"

## Part 4: TRANSFER - Editor-in-Chief for a Day (35 minutes)

### Conclusion & Summative Assessment:

"Excellent work, Detective. You've successfully analyzed different text structures. For your final mission, you are promoted to Editor-in-Chief! You will create two things to demonstrate your mastery."

### Activity 1: The Journalist's Scrapbook (Psychomotor Objective)

"Using the articles from your 'autopsy,' choose one news report, one feature, and one editorial. Cut them out and paste them onto your scrapbook page. Your task is to annotate them like a real editor. Use your colored pens to circle the headline, underline the lead, draw a box around a key fact or a powerful opinion, and label the overall text structure (e.g., 'Inverted Pyramid'). Make it a visual guide to what you've learned."

### Activity 2: Reflection Journal (Affective Objective)

"In your journal, answer this question in a few sentences: 'Now that you can spot the difference between a news report and an opinion piece, how does this make you a smarter, more critical reader of information you find online or in the news? Why is this skill important in real life?'"

## Assessment

- **Formative:** Observations during the "Headline Challenge" and "Article Autopsy" activities. Questions and answers during the "Firm-up" stage.
- **Summative:**
  - The completed "Article Autopsy" graphic organizer will be evaluated for accuracy in identifying text structures and purpose (Cognitive Objective).
  - The "Journalist's Scrapbook" will be evaluated based on the correct selection and clear, accurate annotation of text structure elements (Psychomotor Objective).
  - The reflection journal entry will be evaluated for thoughtful consideration of the skill's real-world importance (Affective Objective).

## Success Criteria:

- **You know you're successful when you can...**
  - Confidently tell the difference between a news report, a feature, and an editorial just by looking at its structure.
  - Point to specific parts of an article (the lead, a quote, an opinion statement) and explain their function.
  - Explain why it's important not to mistake an opinion piece for a straight news report.

## Differentiation:

- **Scaffolding for Support:**
  - Provide a pre-highlighted article where the structural parts are already color-coded as a model.
  - Offer a checklist of "look-fors" for each text type (e.g., "News Report Checklist: Does it have the 5 Ws in the first paragraph? Is the tone objective?").
  - Provide sentence starters for the reflection: "This skill is important because..." or "Now I know that when I read an article, I should first look for..."
- **Extension for Challenge:**
  - Find a new article online about a topic Aira Marie is passionate about (e.g., gaming, art, space exploration) and have her perform an "Article Autopsy" on it without the graphic organizer.
  - Challenge her to rewrite a short news report as a persuasive editorial, or transform an editorial into an objective news report. This requires a deep understanding of how structure and language create purpose.
  - Have her analyze an article for subtle bias in a news report, proving that even "objective" texts can have a slant.