The Anatomy of a Newspaper

Learn how to read a newspaper and find the information you want by learning how it is organized
The Anatomy of a Newspaper

Knowing the organization, layout, and key features of a newspaper will help you find the information you need in a more timely manner.

• Sections of a newspaper
• Features of a story
SECTIONS IN A NEWSPAPER
Newspaper Sections

Newspapers are divided into different sections. Each section contains certain kinds of stories.

• Front Page
• Local Section
• Business
• Sports
• Entertainment
• Op/Ed
The front page of the newspaper is where the most newsworthy stories (local, national, and international) are placed. Editors decide if a story is newsworthy based on news determinants.

- Timeliness
- Proximity
- Prominence
- Impact/Consequence
- Human Interest
Local Section

This is where news about where you live is located. The stories that are more newsworthy will be on the front of this section.
The Business Section in a newspaper features stories about businesses. If companies are hiring, expanding, or experiencing growth, these stories go here. The Business Section will also feature information about money, investing, and the stock market.
Sports

Stories about all sports are included in the Sports Section. This includes high school (also known as prep), semi-professional, and professional stories. Usually there is a stats box for different sports and a calendar for televised sports events.
This section features stories about everything entertainment. This includes book, movie, and play reviews, stories about awards shows, and stories about upcoming entertainment events. Movie times are also listed here.
This section is called Op/Ed, and it stands for Opinions and Editorials. This is where editors publish their columns and where people can read Letters to the Editor. Any story that has opinion written into it, meaning it is subjective, will be in the Op/Ed section.
In what section would this story be found?

A suicide bomber in Kabul kills 57 people and injures hundreds more.

The Front Page Section
In what section would this story be found?

The local, professional sports team won their game last night.

The Sports Section
In what section would this story be found?

A letter written to the editor

The Op/Ed Section
In what section would this story be found?

A 7.8 earthquake hits Hawaii, and California and Japan are currently on a tsunami warning.

The Front Page Section
In what section would this story be found?

A review of the newest action-adventure movie

The Entertainment Section
To keep up with the increasing cost of production, the city is raising water and sewer rates.

The Local Section
In what section would this story be found?

Google buys Facebook in one of the largest technology acquisitions ever.

The Front Page Section
or
The Business Section
If it is providing new news on an older story
A top investor is providing free financial advice during an upcoming teleconference.
In what section would this story be found?

A high school baseball player signs a deal with a local minor league team.

The Sports Section
FEATURES OF A NEWS STORY
News Story Elements

Understanding the elements and layout of a news story will help you understand more about it

- Headline
- Sub-headline (sub head)
- Byline
- Dateline
- Section Number (usually represented as a letter)
- Page Number
- Photo
- Photo Caption
- Photo Credit
- The Jump Line
The Headlines

• Headline
  – Largest text on the page
  – Located on the top of a story
  – It grabs the reader’s attention and states what the story is about

• Sub headline
  – Slightly smaller text than the headline
  – Located directly beneath the headline
  – Provides readers with additional information that could not fit in the headline
Bylines and Datelines

• **Byline**
  – States who wrote the story

• **Dateline**
  – States where the story was *physically* written
  – Usually written in all capitalized letters
  – On the same line where the story begins
All About the Photos

• Photos
  – Help grab readers’ attention
  – Help tell the story

• Photo Caption
  – A statement that tells the audience what is happening in the picture
  – The caption must provide the reader with more information than the picture can provide by itself

• Photo Credit
  – Gives credit to the person who took the picture
The Jump line

- Jump line
  - In print media, stories won’t always fit in the space that they are placed
  - Editors will cut off some of the story and add a jump line **SEEB 12**
  - The rest of the story continues in Section B on page 12
  - If a story begins with **FROM B3**, then that is not the true beginning of a story. You can find the beginning of the story in Section B on page 3
Local Boy Named Hero

Fourth grade boy is hailed a hero after rescuing sister

By John Smith

YOURTOWN – City officials are calling a local fourth grade boy a hero after he rescued his younger sister from a house fire.

The fire broke out shortly after 4 p.m. When emergency crews responded to the scene ... SEE C8

By Ava Adams

This local boy is a hero

Byline

Masthead

Sub Head

Dateline

Photo

Photo Credit

Photo Caption