Newswriting

What is news and what is information?

Question of the Day

What is news?

What makes it news?

- Does it affect your audience?
- Is it new, recent?
- Is it about someone prominent, famous?
- Did it happen close to the audience?
- Does it involve conflict?
- Is it unusual? Unexpected?
- Is it interesting, significant, controversial?
- Are people talking about it?
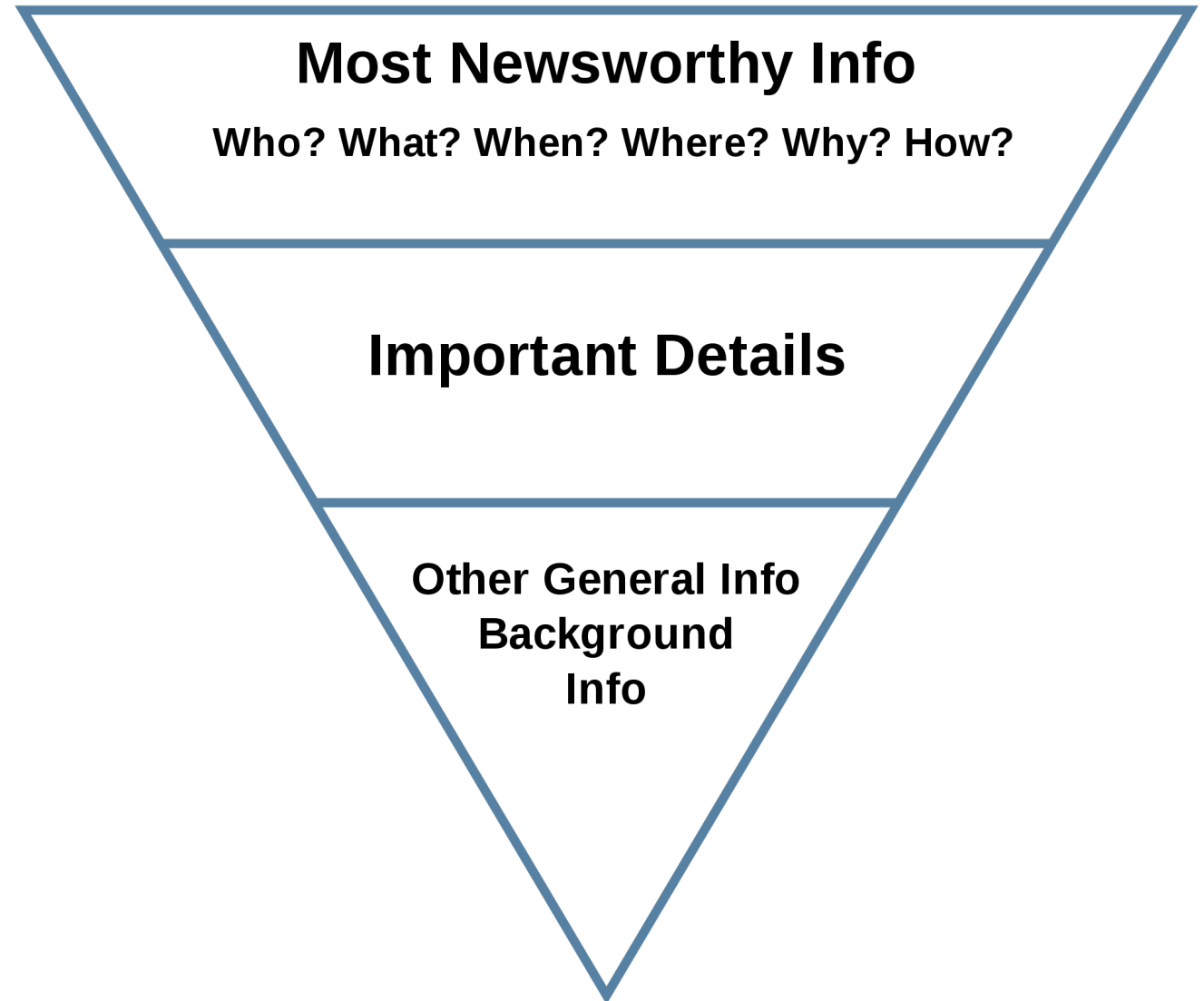- Does it touch people's emotions?
- Can it be verified?

The more elements there are, the higher the news value.

The basic news story

5Ws and 1H

- Who?
- What?
- Why?
- Where?
- When?
- How?

Most Newsworthy Info

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Important Details

**Other General Info
Background
Info**

Fire at Apartment Building Injures Two, Dozens Evacuated

A fire broke out at Green Valley Apartments early this morning, injuring two residents and forcing dozens of others to evacuate their homes. The fire, which started around 4:30 a.m., burned the third and fourth floors of the residential building located on Rue Samsenthai in Vientiane.

Local firefighters arrived quickly on the scene and were able to contain the blaze by 6:00 a.m., preventing it from spreading to nearby buildings. The two injured residents were transported to the central hospital, where their conditions are reported as stable.
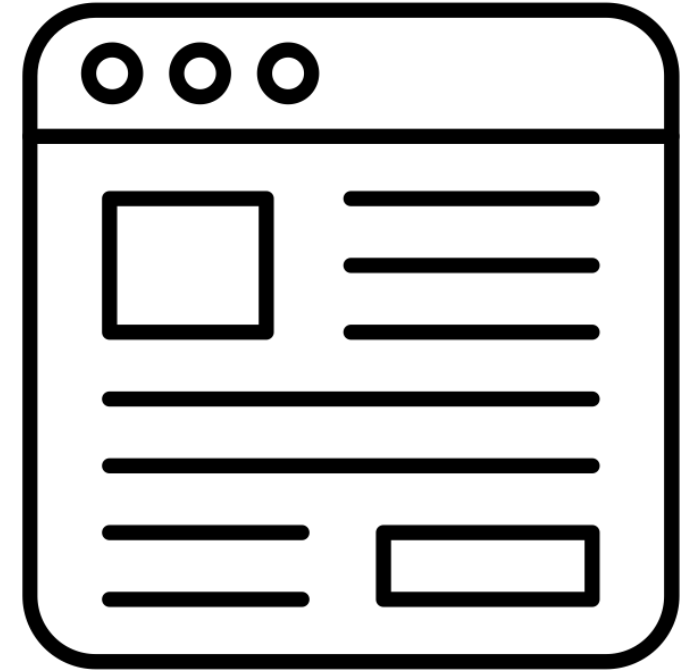
"We are lucky there were no fatalities," said Fire Chief Somchai Phommasack. "The fire was reported quickly, so our team could get people out of the buildings in time."

Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire. Early reports suggest an electrical fault may be to blame. Displaced residents have been relocated to shelters provided by local officials.
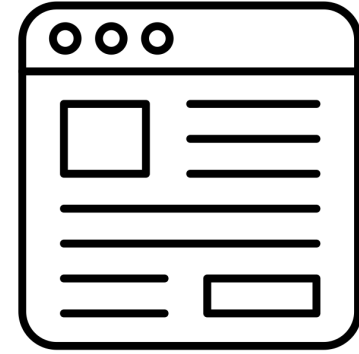
Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Newswriting style

- The lead: the essence of the story, what's new

- First sentence has many of the 5ws and 1H

- Is factual, **not** opinion

- Is clear, easy to understand, uses everyday words, no unknown abbreviations
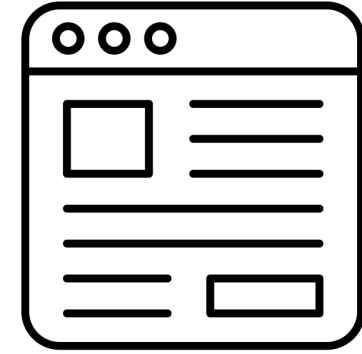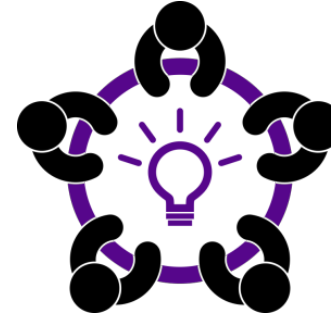
Group work Assignment

- Work in teams of 3
- Write a lead sentence
- *Topic*: This workshop
- *Audience*: Readers in your country

Please remember!
- Answer the 5 Ws and 1 H
- Make it interesting for your audience

Group work Assignment

- Work in teams of 4
- Write a short news story (at least 3 paragraphs) on the plane crash using the relevant information in the list.
- *Audience*: Readers in your country

Remember!

- Use inverted pyramid style (most important info at the beginning)
- Consider the 5 Ws and 1 H
- You will **not** use all the information on the list.

BREAKING NEWS