

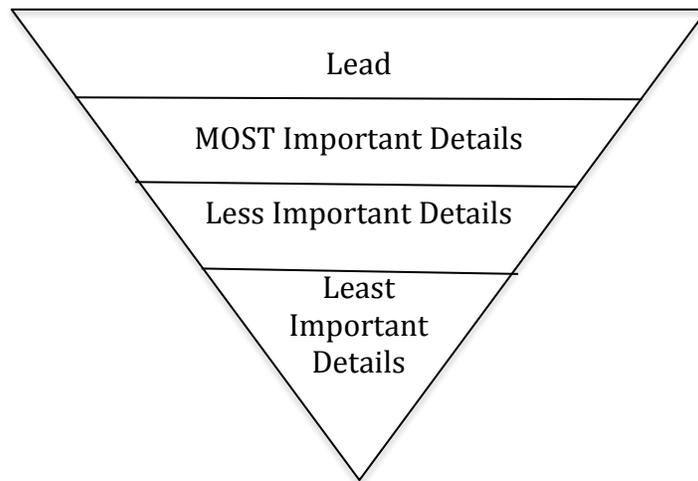
## Journalism/Creative Writing Extended Project Non-Fiction Track

### Step Six: Outline Article

Now that you have collected the information needed for your article, you need to outline how you want the progression of your article to go. Think through the most effective way to keep your readers' interest and to get across the main ideas related to the news event. You have more than one choice in organizing your story. Below are a couple of options.

#### **Inverted Pyramid Style**

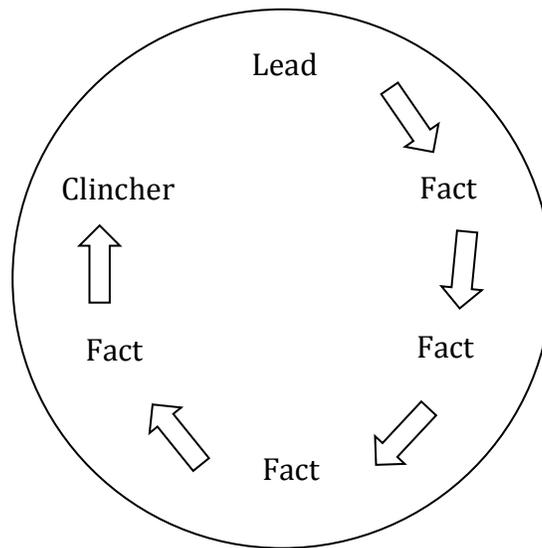
The inverted pyramid, or upside-down triangle, is the traditional pattern for a hard news story.



#### **Storytelling Pattern**

The inverted pyramid is not the only organizational pattern available for the journalist. Perhaps it should not even be the one used most frequently by more experienced writers who have developed confidence in their ability to organize information. The narrative, or storytelling, pattern uses an indirect lead to capture the reader's interest. Following the lead, the main point of the story. Then the writer develops the details of the event as they happened—with a beginning, middle, and end—in the middle of the article. This portion of the story uses narrative techniques such as dialogue and description. At the end, the writer plants a clincher, also called a kicker, which gives the reader something to remember without repeating precious information. When the kicker returns to opening paragraph idea, it is called a circle kicker. For a visual representation of the storytelling pattern refer to the visual on the next page:

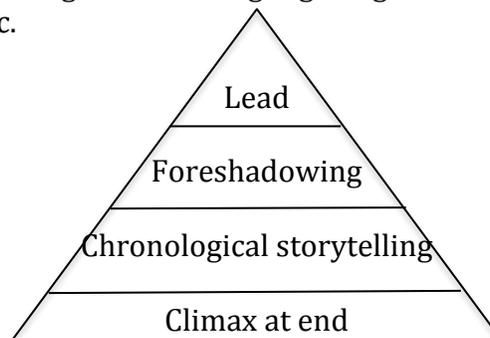
Circle Kicker:



Planning an ending for any story not written in the inverted pyramid style helps journalists avoid the moral they often want to tack onto the end. This planned ending might contain the natural climax to the story, might use a compelling quote, but it should not preach to readers in the reporter's own words. The models in this chapter illustrate the idea of planned endings that do not result in writers expressing their own opinions.

### **Chronological Order**

The chronological order pattern uses time in some way to organize the story in a 1-2-3 sort of way. Yes, it is an element in the narrative storytelling pattern, but depending on the story it may also be useful in its own right. Chronological order may be used successfully to relive the crucial final minutes of major sporting event, to preview a list of upcoming events, to highlight significant events that happened throughout the year, etc.



### **Combination Pattern**

Most likely, reporters will want to experiment with a combination of styles, especially once they start writing longer, more detailed articles (like you will be doing in this project). Often the content of the story itself will suggest an appropriate organization.

Now that you've seen the options for organizing, create a detailed outline for how you want to present your material within your article. Your outline can either be in your journal or on your laptop.