

# *The Inverted Pyramid*

*News Writing*

# TODAY

*We will understand the **inverted pyramid style of news writing.***

*I will **critique and edit a story** based off my knowledge of AP Style and the inverted pyramid.*

# ON YOUR OWN

*Read the following top section of a news story.*

**What is the problem?**

Last year, a hurricane hit the Gulf Coast and caused a lot of damage. Many houses, animals and people fell to the high winds. The federal government has been spending money to fix the damage since then.

Hurricane Bianca will directly strike Cityville tomorrow after making a sudden, surprising turn to the east, officials say.

## ON YOUR OWN

*Read the following top section of a news story.*

**What is the problem?**

If the hurricane turning and striking the city is a surprise, **we don't have time for a history lesson. People need to know NOW** to do what they can to prepare for the hurricane.

# ***STORY SKELETON EXAMPLE***

Lede with upcoming meeting on new road by school

Quote from mayor about why they are doing it

Transition with cost & timeline

Quote from principal about the plan

Transition about history of road causing accidents

Quote from students for and against (?) new road

# ***WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED***

1. *Inverted pyramid stories* **start with the most important information** *and go to the least important; used when people need to know NOW.*
2. *The story should* **start with the news peg** *(what's important).* **Otherwise, you bury the lede.**
3. **The next paragraphs answer the next logical question.**
4. **Stories should be as long as they need to be** *to get important information across, but not so long as to make someone not want to read.*