

Cover Letter

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Professor Hallett

Composition II 1023

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Dear Professor Hallett,

The writing process for this paper was pretty smooth and helped me improve on my paper. I made revisions based off of my peer review and the comments on my rough draft made by you. First, I began by rereading my rough draft and made any simple grammar and punctuation corrections to ensure that my paper flows well and is understood clearly. Next, I added a title and a reference page citing my sources in MLA format. Then, I added more information with regard to the subject matter of the news articles I chose to use. I achieved this by providing a brief description of each article. Next, I moved two sentences from the second paragraph and decided to make a whole new paragraph based off of those sentences. I did this because I felt I needed to dedicate a full paragraph to discuss the inverted pyramid style that most articles use. I also gave better examples of quotes throughout the final draft to show how articles incorporate information from experts. Then, I broke the third paragraph into three separate paragraphs to I could better explain the strategies used in news articles. The final revision I made was to delete any filler or unneeded information.

With Regards,

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Analysis on News Articles

News articles have been an important way of getting information for some time now. Whether it is through newspapers or online, many people get their updates on the news of the world with articles. News articles are written by journalists whose purpose is to be a clear and reliable source of information for the general public. The goal of this paper is to analyze the similarities and differences in online news articles. In other words, this is a rhetorical analysis of the characteristics and conventions in articles. The following paragraphs will further discuss the genre's style, similarities, differences, and purpose.

News articles are mainly for information, in today's world however, design and style are very important. For example, in an online article published by CNN, the design of their website is simplistic and easy to navigate because they want it to be easy for people to read their articles. Similar to most online publishers, they achieve this by having a bar at the top where you can navigate to different subjects. The news articles chosen for this paper are published by CNN, LA Times, and The Guardian. The CNN and Los Angeles Times article's both discuss the natural disaster's happening in Southern California. Currently, Southern California is facing devastating wildfires and heavy rain due to Tropical Storm Kay which has potential to flood the region. The article written by the Guardian talks about how members of South Carolina's state senate from both the Republican and Democrat party work together to vote against an abortion bill. Furthermore, these articles are all online, but newspapers are also a good way for people to read about the world's news.

News articles follow an inverted pyramid style for information. This means that most of the important information will be at the top and the smaller details will be towards the end. For example, in the article published by CNN, the author states, "Parts of Southern California were under flash flood warnings Friday as a tropical storm threatens to drop a year's worth of rain in areas of the drought-stricken

state, according to forecasters”. This is the very first sentence of the article and it is also the single most important piece of information in the article because it sets up the rest of the article while giving credibility to their statement. In contrast, towards the end of the article the author states, “And Yuma, could see 1.5 inches – which would make it the wettest September since 2009”. This statement made by the author may be interesting, but the information itself is not as important because it is towards the end of the article.

The three online articles all share the same conventions; however, they are not all the same. In the article published by Los Angeles Times, they use pictures, graphs, and diagrams throughout the article to give a visual representation of the subject matter. Given the fact they are reporting on a natural disaster, it helps to have graphs and diagrams to understand the information in the article. It also adds a form of interaction for the reader. Under the pictures, there is usually a caption that gives a brief description of the image to further add clarity.

Another similarity between all articles is that they will have a big headline that gives a brief description of the subject. The author of the article also wants to grab the readers attention with the headline so that they read their article. For example, the headline for the Guardian article is, “Republicans help Democratic minority block near-total abortion ban in South Carolina”. This headline is good because it gives enough information about the article to interest readers but get them to read more. Furthermore, the fact that the headline states there is bipartisan agreement can also peak interest given that agreement between parties is hard to achieve.

Another important element is that the articles all use quotes from sources to give what is reported reliability so that they give the best information possible. In the article published by the Guardian, the author quotes a senator talking about what his daughters told him regarding the abortion bill, he stated, “The moment we become pregnant we lose all control over what goes on with our bodies”. Quotes from an article will usually have statements prior or after the quote that state who is saying it like, “he said”. In

this case the author says, "(...)Davis said, recalling what his daughters told him". This ensures clarity on who is being quoted and can add more information to the quote. News articles incorporate quotes from trusted sources as well. In the article published by CNN, the author states, "'With the really strong winds, we could continue to see the fires that are already burning continue to burn and spread before the rain actually gets here,' the National Weather Service in San Diego told CNN". The author establishes credibility by quoting an expert on the subject and also ensures objectivity in their reporting by gathering facts from other sources.

Articles, as a genre, have many different subgenres. However, news articles are written to inform the public on the latest news and developments around the globe, in their nation, or in their locality. The writers who use the genre are journalists whose purpose is to gain accurate information and reiterate it in a clear and concise manner. This is important because making sure the reader can understand the information is most important in this genre. The genre should be used for real-world events that are strictly to inform the public. The news article genre should not be used to write fictional stories because it would not work, and it could confuse people.

The previous paragraphs covered the style, similarities, differences, and purpose of the news article genre. This rhetorical analysis discussed the characteristics and conventions of the genre and also the rhetorical context. Journalists who write these articles do their best to be objective and accurate so that they can inform people. It is vitally important that the information is easy to understand because if it is too complicated it defeats the purpose of the genre. Furthermore, news articles have been and will continue to be one of the most common and important genres in our world.

References

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