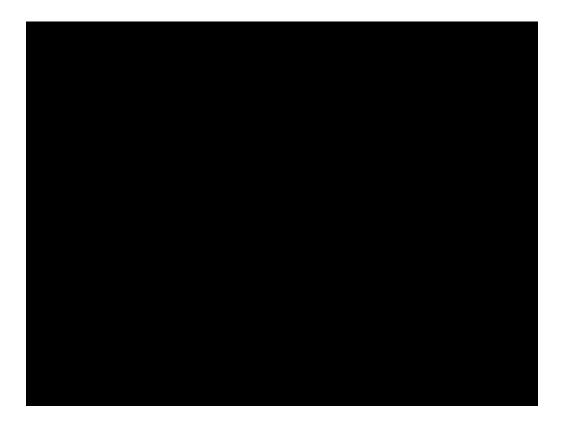


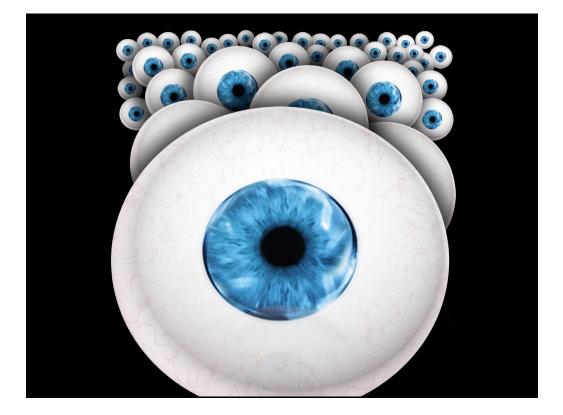
Welcome! This presentation is aimed at writers, editors and designers. As it evolved over the years, I kept adding and deleting the page examples you'll see, but I always kept the runtime around 45 minutes. This version, however, is *much* longer, with many more examples. This way, you can select what to keep and what to delete.



Before we begin, a question: What's our goal, when we publish a story? Do we do it for fame and fortune? For the big bucks? To make the world a better place?

How do you measure success?

For me — prepare to be disappointed — it always comes down to one word: **Eyeballs**.



Yes, eyeballs. I want as many eyeballs as possible on my stuff. For as long as possible, too.



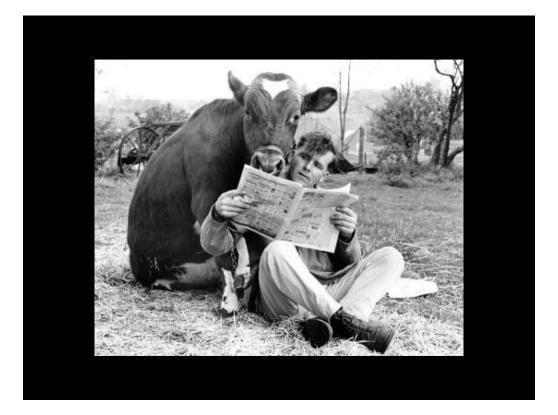
That sounds selfish, I know. But it's really not. . .



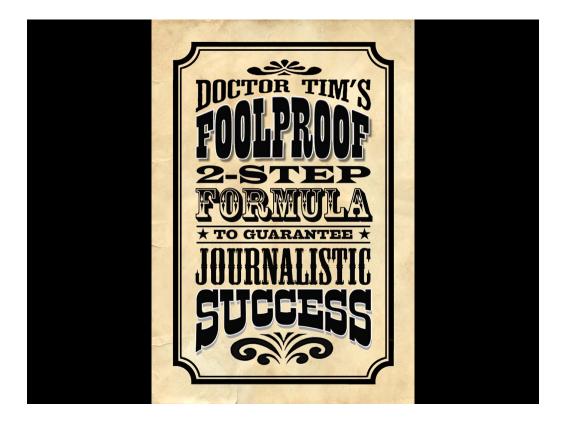
... because it's a competitive media market out there, whatever platform you're working on. TV and radio broadcasts live and die based on ratings — the number of eyeballs (or ears) they attract. For websites, it's the number of clicks.



Is there anything sadder than a beautifully written news story, on an important topic, that dies because it's lost amidst the media maze, becoming *invisible*?

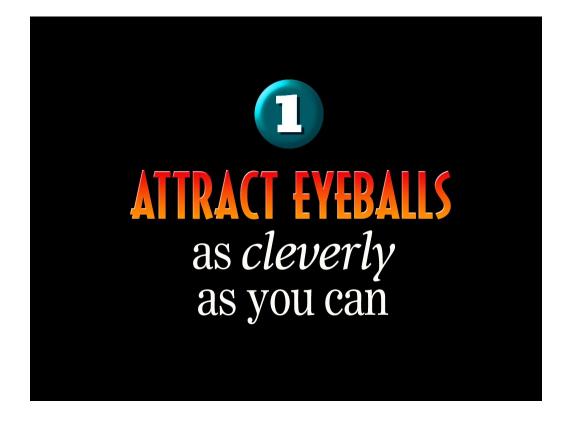


So, as I used to tell my students: *Pretend you agree with me*. How do you attract readers in the most dependably effective way?









OK, Step One. Let's think about this. What does it take to attract the eyeballs of a typical modern reader?



How about a page like this? Hey, wait! Come back! There's some terrific journalism here!



Or even a story like this. Important stuff, sure — but to a typical reader, it looks more like this . . .

says stap that eform d the ch on is ucial minissioners over an bar years. roperty) That caps are ity ... and the com-ners are still going to get stuff done (with-budget)," Locker are inwmakers have mission to get stuff done (wiss-have to get stuff done (wiss-in the budget), Locker capped property taxes at 1 percent on residential prop-erry. 2 percent for rental property and agricultural land, and 3 percent for busi-

Miller face challenge GOP prim

Miller says that another change likely to affect local government finances is reform of township level government — a move that could shift more responsi-bilits to the commit level

bility to the county level. "If they can prove to me it would save money, I'd be all for it. I'm thinking if they want to save money, they could do away with the (county) council," says Millor

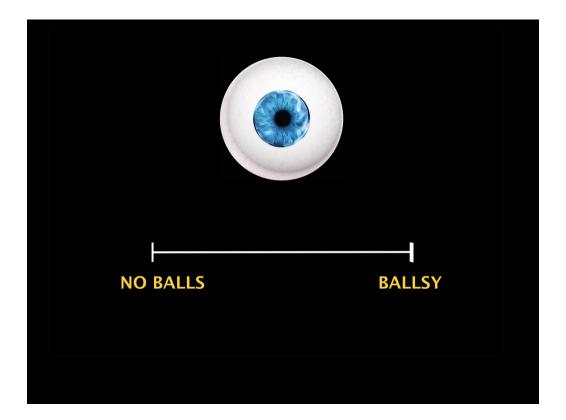
With all county depart, county roads,

mal feeding of (CAFOs) will be button issues over ing four years. In fact, Locker he's gotten more and comments. CAFO issue than "Ag people a people need to c need animal agr or says th re feedba people head to creates We need animal agriculture ... at the same time, the non-seg people have a right to live in the same time, the non-seg people have a right to live in the same time, the same manure odors. Locker says. "I do support the expansion of confined fixed-ing as long as it's done with-in the rules," says Locker, who grew up on a farm and whose Noble Township home is located across the road from a calving opera-tion. Miller adds that be knows that roads, always a contentious issue, will con-tinue to be so. Handling_construction

in nary

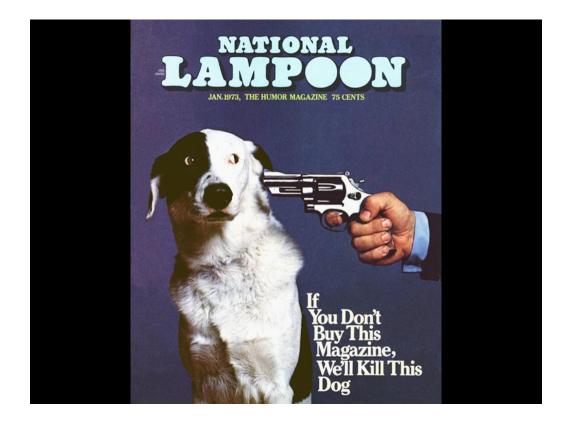
Handling construction and repair of roads on the wind power project will be a major undertaking, as well as continued maintenance on the more than 700 miles of surfaced and stone

... a tough, uphill slog. Just the layout alone – all that serious, gray text – looks daunting, regardless of how well-written the story may be.



Think about your own publication. How much eyeball appeal do the stories offer, on a scale from weak to strong — from "NO BALLS" to "BALLSY"?

So how do you go about attracting eyeballs in a clever way? Let's look at some examples. . . .



This may be the most arresting magazine cover of all time. Forced you to engage, didn't it? (Sure it's tasteless, but it's appropriate for a humor magazine.)



This big, bold, red headline has enormous stopping power. Designers call this a "type attack": using aggressive typography to sell a big story when you've got no dramatic photos. Too sensational? At first, you might think so. But once you've read all that oversized type, don't you want to keep reading?



Talk about dramatic photos! Once you see this image (and the compelling headline), how can you not at least sample what the text is saying?



"Relax! Don't get excited." The confrontational crop on this photo is unusually aggressive. And the layout makes this look like an easy read.



Again, on this page, it's not just the extreme size and cropping of the photo — it's the way the layout provides a variety of accessible entry points to lure you in.



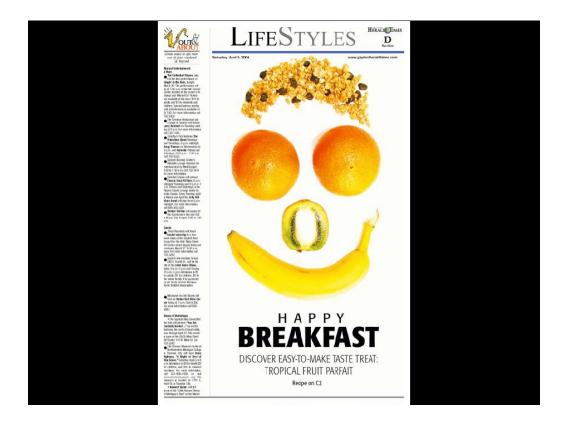
Here, a big, messy headline does the job of grabbing your attention.



Tilting type and photos can be gimmicky, but it's effective with the right topic (usually feature stories).



Just how daring are you willing to be? This story about porn and technology tested the tolerance of readers in Cleveland.



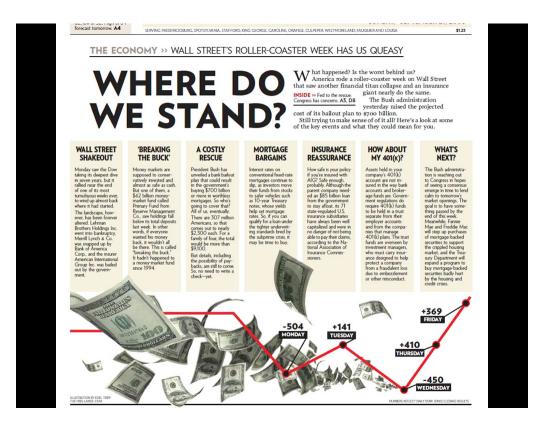
Fun with fruit! You can arrange your fruit to form a happy face



... or you can try something more risqué. Too much for your readers? (This page ran years ago in Quebec, of all places.)



You can attract eyeballs by *the way you present information*, too. Notice how much engaging data is transmitted by this hard-working (but elegantly designed) type.

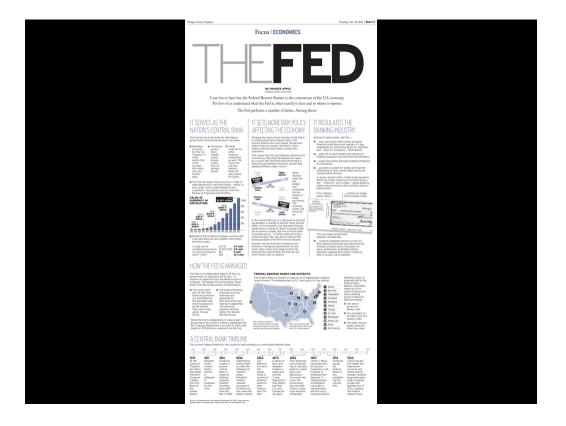


Same here. What's appealing about this layout is how accessible the information is. This is an extremely effective way to make dry economic data appealing by presenting it in **short form**.



Again, an admirable short-form alternative to your typical freezewarning story. It's everything you need to know in one appealing package: Cool photo-illustration. Big blue temperatures and subheads. Useful bullet items. And a web link for more info.

Or would you rather just read 15 inches of gray text?



What is the Federal Reserve System? You could try reading a 5,000-word essay — OR you could browse this impressive full-page infographic. Some would argue that it dumbs-down complex information; but others would insist that, because the page looks so accessible, it actually delivers more data more successfully than 100 paragraphs of linear text would.





Enough, for now, about grabbing eyeballs (although if you want to explore more inspiring design devices, be sure to view our companion presentation, **101 Swipeable Ideas.)**

Instead, let's focus on pure journalism — reporting and writing to figure out how to present information in the most effective possible way.



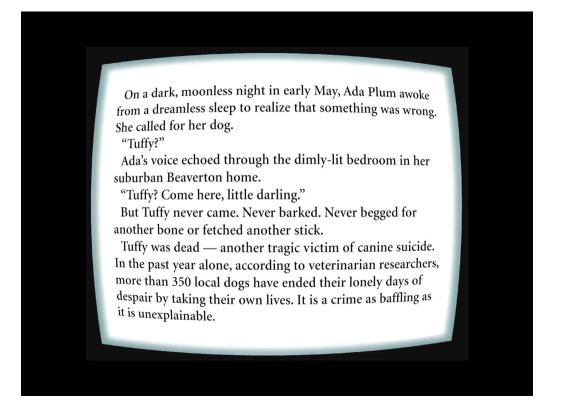
Suppose you're a reporter. A feature writer. And you're preparing to write a story about a disturbing new trend: **Dog Suicide.** That's right. It's true!* People are going away to work or school, abandoning their miserable dogs in lonely laundry rooms all day. The poor critters are terminally depressed. Can you blame them? *lt's not true.



So you get on the phone to interview veterinarians and bereaved pet owners . . .



.... then you sit down and type up your story. It's going to be epic! Awesome! Heart-breaking!



Great stuff! You're on fire! Readers are gonna love this!!



When you turn in your story, your gruff-but-lovable editor says, "Great stuff. But where's the photos?"



So you quickly dispatch a photographer to shoot a grieving dog owner, who poses on the living-room couch for this sad (and awkward) portrait.



And here it is: your front-page centerpiece. Some copy editor gives it one of those standard, alliterative feature headlines, like *Learning to Live* . . .



.... or Living to Learn



... or *Looking for Love*. Whatever. But there it is on Page Oney. And when the story jumps to page 4 ...



.... it looks like this. Uh-oh. Too gray? Luckily, a quick-witted editor fixes it



... by adding *subheads*. Still too dull? How about it we find another depressing photo and stick *that* at the top of the page?



Better, maybe. But when you see this layout, you cry, "You can't cut 15 inches out of my story!! Make that photo smaller!"



So you compromise, and this is how the page prints.

But now that we're done, maybe we should stop and ask: *How much of this are readers gonna actually read*?

Imagine that *you're* a typical reader. How far would you make it? (And remember, this is a beautifully written story. Award-winning, even. Possibly.) Would you reach the end? The middle? Would you even have turned to this page at all?



As it turns out, newspapers are a billion-dollar industry with no accurate way to measure how consumers actually use their products.

But here's a revealing way to see how your readers read your publication:

HOW TO CONDUCT A QUICK & EASY READER SURVEY

STEP1 Recruit a dozen volunteers. (The more people you enlist, the more reliable your survey will be.) Aim for a representative mix of readers by age, gender, lifestyle, etc.

<page-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text>

STEP 2 Ask your volunteers to read the next issue of your paper as they typically do — but tell them to circle everything they read with a dark felt-tip pen as they go through the paper. That may mean just a headline, a photo caption or the first two paragraphs of a story. (By "reading," we mean *processing words in a meaningful way*, not just *glancing*.) **STEP 3** Ask your recruits to do this for several issues of the paper. If you're a daily, ask them to read for a week; if you're a weekly, have them read two or three issues. Collect the papers from them when they're done. **STEP 4** Mark each pile so you know who's who (i.e., "25-year-old male grad student"). Then ask: What did they consistently read? What *didn't* they read? What topics or story treatments had the most (or least) success? Identify patterns and problems. Make changes. Then try another survey.

Granted, a survey like this is more insightful than scientific. But the more readers you survey, the more accurate it becomes.

Once you begin analyzing the results, major patterns should begin to emerge.

Let's look at some real-world examples:



Here's a feature page from southern Oregon. This reader reads that big liftout quote; the cutlines for the lead story; and downpage, the headline and a couple inches of text. That's it. Is that unusual? Or typical?



Another feature page, this time from Omaha. This reader scans the headline type and the fast-facts box at the bottom of the page. . . . but no text at all.

Over and over again, this has proven true with feature pages like this — readers browse 'em, but don't actually read 'em.

Or am I deliberately choosing examples that prove a point? (A good reason why you should survey the reading habits of your community.)



Here we are in San Francisco. This is how an attorney reads his newspaper: one or two inches at the start of every story – four paragraphs, tops.



Another page from San Francisco. Look: This reader actually read most of that top story, although, like most readers, he failed to read past the "jump," where the story continued on an inside page. Which is true for most readers, actually. After doing this survey dozens of times, I found that readers followed stories inside only about one in 20 times (or 5% of the time).

Notice that bottom story: an

engaging profile of Ram Dass, a popular spiritual teacher who suffered a stroke. Note how the reader reads just the first two inches and then the story jumps



... and on the jump page, he reads ... the last two inches! And then he goes on to read the fascinating French election results.

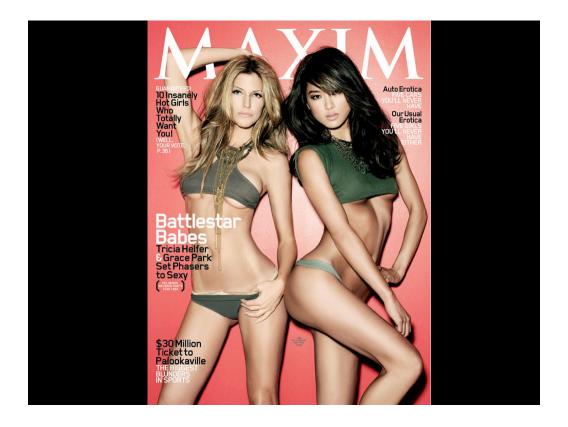
What's going on??? Here's what I've concluded: Readers aren't lazy, or stupid. They're busy. Distracted. Overloaded. Those long columns of text were successful in your father's newspaper. But today (unless you're retired or have lots of free time), they look like *work*. So our eyeballs are attracted to short-form data — like that France election graphic.

Think this is true for your friends and family? For you? How much of that Dog Suicide story would you have read?



By the way, here's my all-time favorite survey sample. You can actually hear the reader saying: *Skip the preamble. Just give me the bullet items*.

What if it turns out that most readers actually feel that way? Would it change the way you approach your reporting — the way you *deliver the data*?



Magazines have figured this out a long time ago. Take Maxim, for instance. For a while there (before it changed ownership), Maxim was wildly successful. Let's listen to its editor explain his editorial strategy:

Back in 2002, Maxim editor Keith Blanchard spoke at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. An excerpt:

Today, Maxim is the largest general interest men's magazine on Planet Earth.

Is Maxim a light read? Of course it is. If you're trying to reach cranky retirees, maybe 6,000-word rants are still appropriate. But our readers are young affluent men, which means they're busier today than they will ever be in their lives; they have shorter attention spans than any previous generation; they are chronically overstimulated and easily bored. Now we can sit in a corner and bemoan this sad state of affairs, or we can get off our ass and adapt.

We have built a highly successful magazine by the astonishing methodology of *figuring out what readers want and then giving it to them,* an enterprise which in journalism is called pandering, and which in every other industry is called customer service.

We have become masters of the short form because, for reasons entirely outside our control, the short form is what people want now. Adapt or perish.



Thumb through a typical issue of Maxim in its heyday, and notice how many long, texty stories they're running. (Spoiler alert: *none*.)









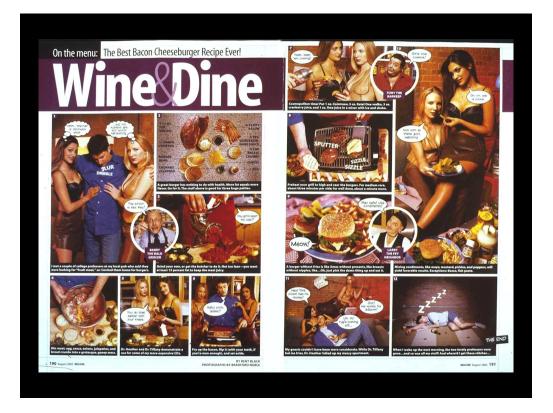












Yes, it's all short, punchy and visual. But it's solid information — not just trivia.

Now, you could argue that Maxim is sophomoric and, yes, sexist. But consider who its target audience is. And ask yourself: Are they not giving their readers useful, accessible content?

And would an editorial strategy like this — emphasizing short-form data delivery — work effectively for other audiences, as well?



Would short-form formatting work for delivering hard news? Take a look at The Week magazine.



The Week's editorial staff sifts through the best publications around the world and distills the meatiest news into data-dense paragraphs — chunks of information organized by bold subheads.



Briefing The keepers of the Constitution **NEWS** 15

pas

Sonia Sotomay How powerful is the U.S. Supreme Court? Historian Samuel Eliot Mor has called the Supreme Cou keystone in the federal arch because virtually all Americ afforted her the issues it tack

Alexis nerica, Alexis e of the high court, "A more imposing judicial nstituted by any people." As one old quip goes, the Supreme Court is to God.

s it always this way? There are only a few reference stitution, and that document n original jurisdiction "in all Ca ic Ministers and Consuls, and are only a fe ion, and that d inal jurisdiction nisters and Con iting in The Fe eral judici-Ambassadors, otl h a State shall be milton predicted ind "least danal judiciary would ir fledgling republi I "no influence ow force nor will, but the court decided overnment the purse" feed, in its

t happened?
Any power does not have been as indicial review. Some the power to upholo or nullify the the other branches of federal government, to assure Construction was being honored. It have hardwars is Audioor the indicial department to as what have is a substance of the indicial department to as what the law is."
Thomas jefferion was aghas:
The department of the indicial of the indicial department to as what the law is."
The substance of the indicial department to as what the law is."
Thomas jefferion was aghas:
The substance of the indicial department to as what the law is."
The substance of the indicial department to a substance of the indicial department to as what the law is."
The substance of the indicial department to a substance of the indicial department to as what the law is."
The substance of the indicial department to a substance of the indicial department to as what the law is."
The substance of the indicial department to a substance o

g that the Constitutio ing of wax in the har hich they may twist a m they please."

How did later courts use this power? By exercising an ever-wider purview over a vastly expanded caseload. McCulloch v: Maryland (1819) posited the doctrine of implied constitutional powers, and in sub-sequent cases, the court claimed the right to wwers, an on, the court claimed the crew the actions of state courts : crew in addition to those of the fed ermment. As the 19th century gave the 20th, the court continued to influence, reaching down through to the right to e courts and agen-of the federal gov-tury gave way to used to increase its nto the economy

the federal def Jus rellow jus Jim Crow consider Br. ning of the n solely bec-ruling

What happened afte

om the bench. The

owed

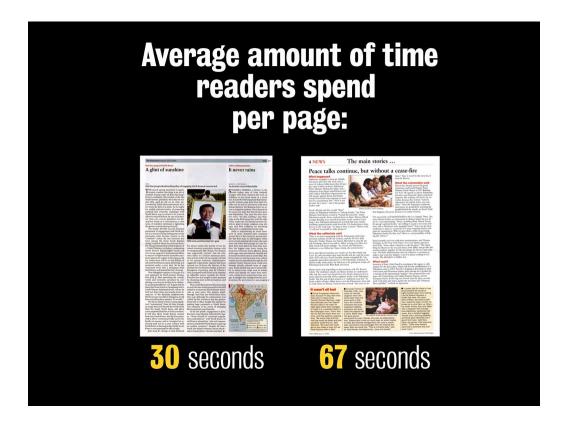
What have been the implications of Roe? Galvanized by Roe, conservatives demanded the

constructionists"—that is, judges reading of the Constitution's orig the bench. Railing against "action Nine is just a number Originally constituted with six members in 1789, the Supreme Court expanded to seven in 1807, nine in 1837, and 10 in 1863. The Judiciary Act of 1869 set the number again at nine, where it has find reasons political bent can i the other branches

So is the court a law unto itself? It can seem that way. Justices are not elo but appointed by the president, and the Constitution provides that they may rem than a did th



Notice just how much material has been compressed into this one Business page — 11 different topics in all.



In one survey, readers were monitored while reading both a typical newsmagazine (left) and The Week. They spent roughly twice as long, on average, reading pages in The Week. So what's the best method for attracting eyeballs and delivering data?







Improve your collaboration.



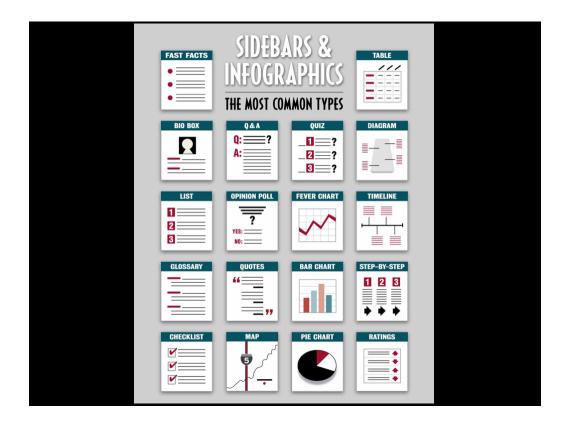


Headlines. Text. Photos. An occasional liftout quote.

If those are the only design tools in your toolbox, you may be limited into publishing what looks like Your Father's Newspaper. All those longform "notebook dumps" could be tough sledding for your impatient, time-starved readers.

How can you speed up their comprehension without dumbing down

your journalism?



To deliver more modern journalism, you need a bigger toolbox — with a variety of text and graphic options ("alternative story forms") like these.

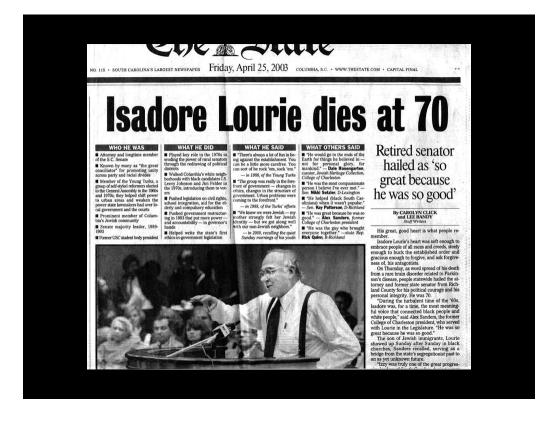
Let's take a tour through some examples.

			NCAA SUPER REGIONAL					
Some still skeptical of high-speed rail		Texas Longhorns Coach: Augle Garrido, ninth sea UT (384-192-1) Conference: Big 12 How they got here: Won Austin Regional: beat Quimipiac 20- to Arkansas 9-2; beat Miami (12-5; beat Arkansas 19-8; beat	son at Saturday: Texas, Ri Mississippi, RH, M Sunday: Texas, RH LH Matt Maloney S; lost Ohio)	Probable starters Saturday: Texas, RH Randy Boone (7:4, 3.41 ERA); Mississippi, RH, Mark Hollman (8:4, 3.85) Sunday: Texas, RH Kyle McCulloch (10:4, 3.07); Mississippi, LH Matt Maloney (8:2, 3.14) Stephen Head does it				
		Arkansas 5-2. Players to watch: Right-handed reliever J. Brent Cox (7-2, 1.69	ERA,			all for Miss, home	Ole with 18 rs (2nd	
BY ANDY JOHNS STATE WATTRA DALTON, Ga. – When Interstate 75 was built through Whitfield County, the super- highway got a chunk of Al Holland's family farm. US, Highway 41 and Carbondale Road also each took a piece. Holland showed up at Monday's high-speed rail	NEXT MEETING What: Georgia DOT Informational meeting on high-speed rail When: 6 to 8 p.m. today Where: Fellowship Hall of St. Mark United Methodist Church, 781 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta	15 saves), who was named st of the year this week by the National Collegiate Baseball V Association, could throw exte innings in the series. All-Amer catcher Taylor Teagarden bat .565 in the regional round whi hitting three homers. NCAA tournament appearances Super regional appearances 5 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005)	vitters nded ted ted ted ted ted ted Probable lineu	24) Ips		on the and se saves, plays base v he's n pitchin Bruce N OXFORT	He first vhen ot ng. wwman	
meeting in Dalton to be sure tracks for a bullet train didn't		Mississippi Rebels	MISSISSIPPI Player Justin Henry	Pos. DH	HR 2	RBIs 26	Avg.	
lay claim to another portion. "We've given enough,"	About 80 people attend-	Coach: Mike Bianco, fifth seaso	n at Chris Coghlan	3B	6	57	.360	
Holland said. "People aren't	ed the Georgia Department of Transportation's informa-	Ole Miss (197-108-1)	Brian Pettway Stephen Head	RF 1B	20 18	65 68	.391	
going to get on that thing	of Transportation's informa-	Conference: Southeastern	Mark Micht	LF	13	48	.319	
and ride to Atlanta."	See RAIL, Page A3	How they got here: Won Oxford	Cooper Osteen	2B	0	32	.300	
	See Rule, 1 age 115	Regional: beat Maine 5-0; bea	Zack Cozart	SS	9	43	.281	
		Oklahoma 7-3; beat Oklahoma	Barry Gunther	С	4	27	.285	
		Players to watch: Stephen Head 2.59 ERA; 7 saves, 80.0 IP) is th team's top pitcher and ranks		CF	1	26	.308	
		second among the Rebels with	Player	Pos.	HR	RBIs	Avg.	
		home runs. He'll play first who	NICK Peoples	RF	0	22	.321	
		not closing games on the mou	Drew Stubbs	CF	11	45	.331	
		Right fielder Brian Pettway ha		SS 1B	8	61 41	.384	
		of the team's 80 homers.	Carson Kainer	LE	2	28	.304	
		NCAA tournament appearances		DH	5	20	.329	
			Taylor Topgardon	C	6	31	.345	
		Super regional appearances: 1	David Maroul	3B	9	27		
		- Cedric Golden	David Maroul Robby Hudson	3B 2B	9		.237	

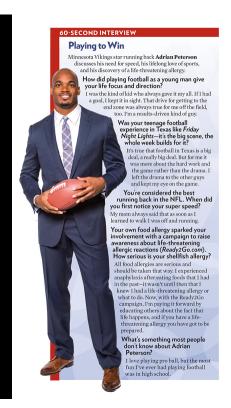
The fast-fact box. Instead of burying the basic who-what-wherewhen down in the 17th paragraph, you can highlight it in a box that makes it easy for readers to find. You can do this for meetings. Concerts. Restaurant reviews. Sporting events.

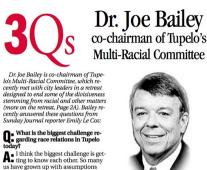


The bio box. Writing a profile of some newsmaker? A format like this adds a nice graphic touch to your story while providing an accessible way to organize basic biographical details — although you could also use it to add offbeat flavor, like the top example does.



Note the power of fast-fact bullet items. Where does your eye want to go first: to the text along the right side of the page, or the *WHO HE WAS/WHAT HE DID* bullets along the top?





reday? A think the biggest challenge is get-ting to know each other. So many us have grown up with assumptions and we think we know the other per-son's story. It's one thing to read and ob-serve from a distance but sitting down to meet and to listen is something else, and I think that's the challenge. Too many of us are too quick to judge when and I think that's the challenge. Too create an environment to share stories -not to make judgments but to under-stand.

C. What are some solutions to this challenge? A Our committee is in the process of considering several initiatives... One big thing is that we want to decide what we feel is the appropriate use of the ethics report when it finally arrives. Our preference is to identify weakness-es and address them and not use it in consistent mount. When a dec consider. accusatory manner. We're also consideraccusatory manner. We're also consider-ing awareness programs for our leaders and maybe our citizens. ...We'll discuss organizing community involvement in appointments to volunteer committees. Right now there is no central depository for volunteers and we're looking at that. There are laws on the books already covering discrimination and we will be discussing a proposal to recommend to the City Council a citizens advisory

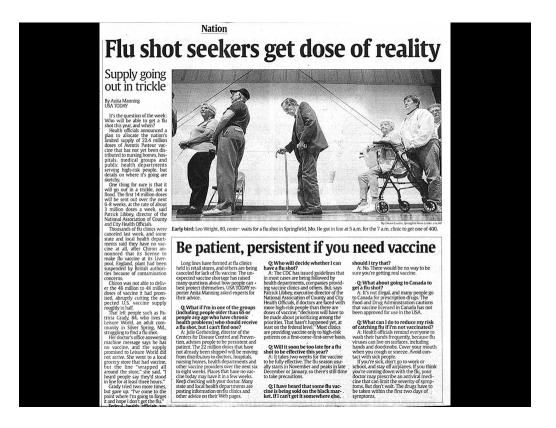
board or boards to look at various as-pects of city government, particularly a police oversight board. None of these are recommendations.

These are all proposals

These are all proposals.
G. What is your greatest hope for the community:
A. Obviously we would hore to see a doesn't matter of the community in which need just doesn't matter. We are a three are certainly problems and we recognize those problems. One of the things that we feel is that our community leaders — mayor and City Council – should be the model of stability, the model of tolerance. ... Also, I feel Tupelo is very much a head of other communities in the state....Yet we still have ground to make up.

other communities in the state ... Yet we still have ground to make up. I think the greatest progress has been made in our school system – so many black, white and Hispanic kids playing together, and working together. I think we adults can learn a lot from our youth, and I hope as those youth grow up they will continue to be those mod-els of consideration and collaboration.

The Q & A. A verbatim transcript of an interview. Here are two examples of Q & A's that are short and sweet. But they can run long, too, especially for deep dives with articulate newsmakers.



Another type of Q & A, where you ask (and answer) hypothetical questions about a current event — in this case, as the story's lead puts it: It's the question of the week: Who will be able to get a flu shot this year, and when?

Be patient, persistent if you need vaccine

Long lines have formed at flu clinics held in retail stores, and others are being canceled for lack of flu vaccine. The unexpected vaccine shortage has raised many questions about how people can • best protect themselves. USA TODAY reporter Anita Manning asked experts for their advice.

me ırt-

acanto er-

een

ori-

ion

liv-

ion

m-

exply

Pa-; at

)m-

Λd.,

ing

has

ply

ocal ine,

all 1. "I

ood

nes, the

rget

rs.

Early Dird: Leo Wright, 80, center, waits for a nu shot in springheid, i

Q: What if I'm in one of the groups (including people older than 65 or people any age who have chronic health problems) who should receive a flu shot, but I can't find one?

A: Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, advises people to be persistent and patient. The 22 million doses that have not already been shipped will be moving from distributors to doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, health departments and other vaccine providers over the next six to eight weeks. Places that have no vaccine today may have it in a few weeks. Keep checking with your doctor. Many state and local health departments are posting information on the clinics and other advice on their Web pages.

Q: Who will decide whether I can have a flu shot? A: The CDC has issued guidelines that in most cases are being followed by health departments, companies providing vaccine clinics and others. But, says Patrick Libbey, executive director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials, if doctors are faced with Health Officials, if doctors are faced with more high-risk people than there are doses of vaccine; "decisions will have to be made about prioritizing among the priorities. That hasn't happened yet, at least on the federal level." Most clinics are providing vaccine only to high-risk patients on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Q: Will it soon be too late for a flu shot to be effective this year? A: It takes two weeks for the vaccine

to be fully effective. The flu season usu-ally starts in November and peaks in late December or January, so there's still time to take precautions.

O: I have heard that some flu vaccine is being sold on the black market. If I can't get it somewhere else,

should I try that? A: No. There would be no way to be sure you're getting real vaccine.

Q: What about going to Canada to get a flu shot? A: It's not illegal, and many people go

to Canada for prescription drugs. The Food and Drug Administration cautions that vaccine licensed in Canada has not been approved for use in the USA.

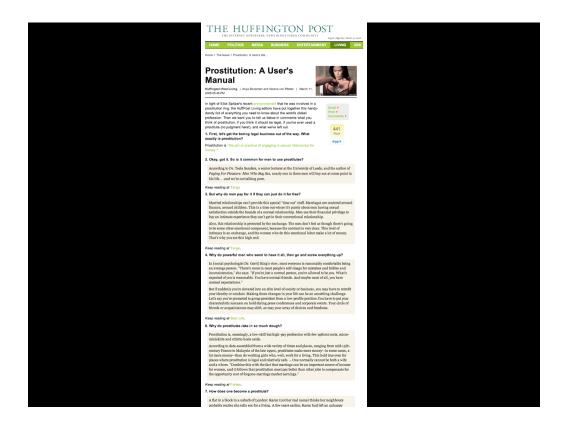
O: What can I do to reduce my risk of catching flu if I'm not vaccinated?

A: Health officials remind everyone to wash their hands frequently, because flu viruses can live on surfaces, including hands and doorknobs. Cover your mouth

hants and douknoss. Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Avoid con-tact with sick people. If you're sick, don't go to work or school, and stay off airplanes. If you think you're coming down with the flu, your doctor may prescribe an antiviral medi-tion of the two prescribes and the second cine that can limit the severity of symp-toms. But don't wait. The drugs have to be taken within the first two days of symptoms.



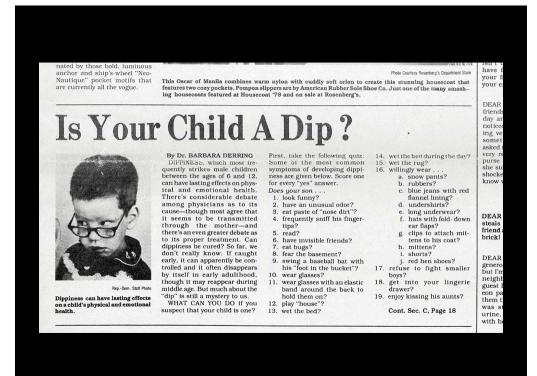
A few years back, New York governor Eliot Spitzer resigned after being shamed in a prostitution scandal. (This was the eyeballgrabbing cover of New York magazine that week)



In the midst of that widely reported scandal, The Huffington Post ran this irreverent but highly entertaining Q & A that asks questions like Why do powerful men who seem to have it all, then go and screw everything up and — in case you were wondering — How does one become a prostitute?



Speaking of prostitutes, here's a page from The New York Times. Note the fast-fact box.



Quizzes. Readers love quizzes. They're interactive and personal, and work especially well on feature pages.



This may be the most popular (and plagiarized) story I ever wrote, where readers get points if they've seen a ghost, escaped a tornado or saved somebody's life.



Diagrams. The new parking tickets are here! So what's what? This is an engaging way to give readers a guided tour.



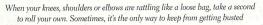
This page is similar in structure to the previous page, and shows how to preview an art exhibit in a readerfriendly way: a few inches of introductory text, a fast-facts box, and a series of quotes from the artist as he explains how a typical painting comes together.



A regular man-and-woman-onthe-street feature from the San Jose Mercury News years ago. This format could be popular in any newspaper: Why We Wear What We Wear.



Step-by-step instructions. In this case, how to throw a toga party . . .





How to roll a joint

By CHEECH MARIN ou could say I've taken a lot of hits in my time. Consider this: I had 150 stitches in me by the time I was seven. I broke my leg skiing a bunny hill in Canada (but, hey, it kept me out of the draft). I messed up both my knees playing basketball. Once, I was even abducted by a bunch of aliens. They tried to take me to Mexico. Now I've started hiking the hills of Malibu, which occasionally gets dangerous, what with mudslides and Sean Penn. That's why it pays to be ready for misfortune. My advice to the weakkneed: Before you decide to take that trip, make sure your joints are secure.

Step One: Rell a big one When you're taking about a big joint, like th knee, you need to use a lot of wrapt to protee it properly. Most elastic bandges come in 3. - and feindwidth. Pick the big one. Otherwise you won't cover enough of your heat to do any good. Start with one end of the bandge apainst the forat of your shin, about 6 inches below: the knee, then begin wontiline it round and and and and and and and and anyolitable the board. ing it, round and our leg. over the way





D 1

Step Two: Don't wrap too tightly After you're finished wrapping, slide a finger under the bandage to check the fit If you can't do this, your joint is wrapped too tightly. This cuts down on circula-tion, and that can be à drag. Circulation's homenent the sum of a thing in lane. ortant when y on's g

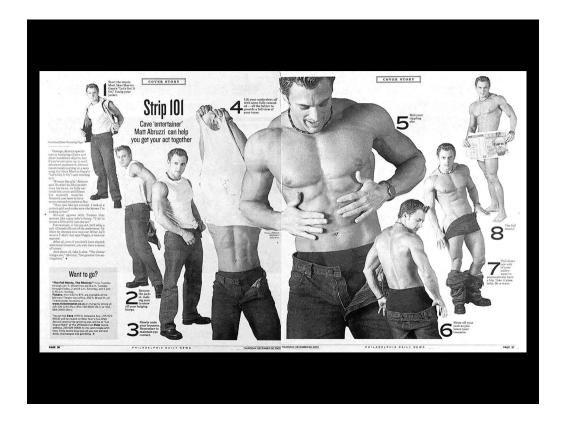
. . . how to roll a joint •



- ... how to make a wizard wand ...
- . .



.... how to kill a zombie



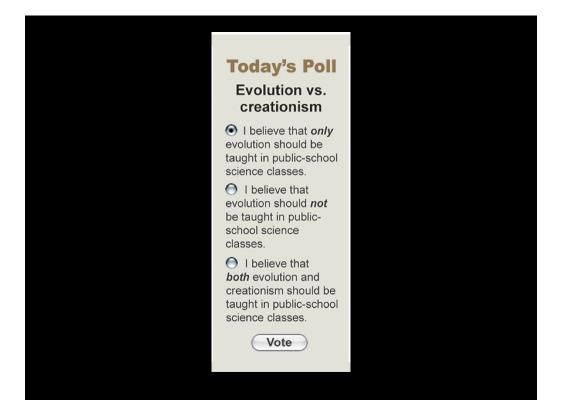
... or how to strip for your girlfriend (a special package for Valentine's Day).



Top Ten lists. Movies, wildfires, burgers – you get the idea.

	County. Let's remain m	Focus I FIRE SEASON OWNEDDFIRES summer leads into a very scary-looking fire season hore in Orange inidial of the hazard with a look at the 10 voorst vidifiers in U.S. which happend here in California — marked by property look.	
1	OAKLAND FIRE STORM	Array Conserver Summ	
2	Southern California Wildfires	And the second s	
3	THE CEDAR FIRE	Arrier Barrier	
4	CERRO GRANDE FIRE	A conserved and the second sec	
5	THE OLD FIRE	kran Kr	
6	Southern California Wildfires	for the second s	
7	LAGUNA BEACH FIRE	for the second s	
8	the Florida Wildfires	for the second s	
9	CLOQUET- MOOSE LAKE FIRE	Array Barton Santa	
10	PAINTED CAVE FIRE	for the second s	

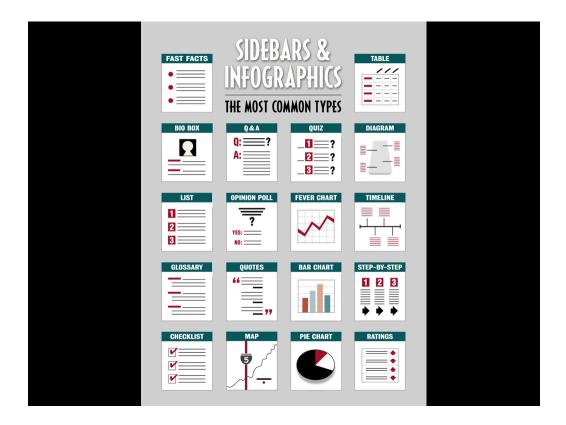




Polls and surveys. From political issues to pop culture — give readers choices, collect their responses (mail-in? online?), then tabulate the results.



You can package poll results in a variety of ways, whether in list form (with artwork) or as infographics (with pie charts, for instance).



You can find more inspiring examples of all the above sidebars either by Googling, say *timelines*, or by consulting "The Newspaper Designer's Handbook."





Chunking *n*. Dividing a long story into small, easy-to-digest chunks.

Imagery and Symbolisms in Three Poems

Poems breathe life to what seems to be inanimate in a traditional perspective. It gives meaning to words not found within the context of literal understanding. The role of imagery and symbolism greatly affects the voice and mood of the poems, to balance with the theme. In "The Love Song of J. Alfred Pulfrock" by T.S. Eliot, it heavily depends on symbolisms with a vivid description of the settings. The imageries heightened the gloominess that the person feels as he talks to a listener. In the first stanza which states, "let us go, through certain half-deserted streets/ the muttering retreats/ of restless nights of one-night cheap hotels" (Eliot 4-6), the presence of dark imageries such as "retreats," "restless nights," and "cheap hotels" may recall the speaker's experience that he wants to "go and make [a] visit" (Eliot 12). At the same time, these could be symbols in a way that it collectively describes the speaker's past, as full of regrets and wasted opportunity, especially in taking risks for intimate relationships. Using descriptive devices, such as sensory details, further developed the feeling of insecurity the speaker has, saying: "with a bald spot in the middle of my hair" (Eliot 39).

Images and symbolisms go hand in hand; however, they can exist without the presence of the other. Like Eliot's work, the poem "Constantly Risking Absurdity" written by Lawrence Ferlinghetti, is built around imageries, symbolisms and few allusions. According to Edward Kent, Ferlinghetti's poem is the writer's definition of poets, as he performs "like an acrobat" (Ferlinghetti 6) every time he writes. It is the poet's duty to present the unshakable truth to his audience, and if he fails to do this, he would fall to his death just like what a careless acrobat can become (Kent 1244). To give a general view of Ferlinghetti's poem, it is parallel to the objective correlative principle of

For years, students have been told that THIS is the ideal model for conveying information: the essay. Paragraph after paragraph . . .



Brooke MacKillop May 1st 2013 Environmental Sciences Term Paper

Wildlife Conservation and the Loss of Species

The number one cause of species loss is in fact the loss of their habitat. It is estimated that the Earth loses ten species per day, mainly at the hand of the human population. Each species, and in fact each organism, play key ecological roles. When a species is lost, it is impossible to predict the full extent of the effect this loss will have on the ecosystem it previously inhabited and the world at large. This, as well as an infinite number of other reasons, provides the basis for a strong argument as to why the human population needs to make great strides toward the preservation of both habitats and their species.

As previously stated, it is estimated that on average, 10 species are lost per day. The equals 3600 species annually. While a great number of these species are microorganisms whose extinction cannot be easily noticed, some of these organisms are larger, such as animals and plants. Many humans do not feel the drive to help these species, but are more concerned with their daily lives and those items they prioritize. However, the loss of these species does in fact affect everyone and everything in the world. For example, a great deal of animals are used for food, wither for himself or herself personally or for a family pet. Many plants also provide materials such as cotton, hemp, and fabric dyes. Plants and bacteria cultures provide medicines, and those synthetic materials in medications are modeled after plants. Others argue the famous point "with great power comes great responsibility." As



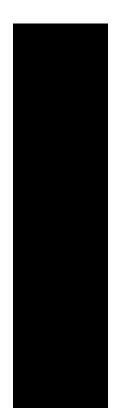
1

.... after paragraph

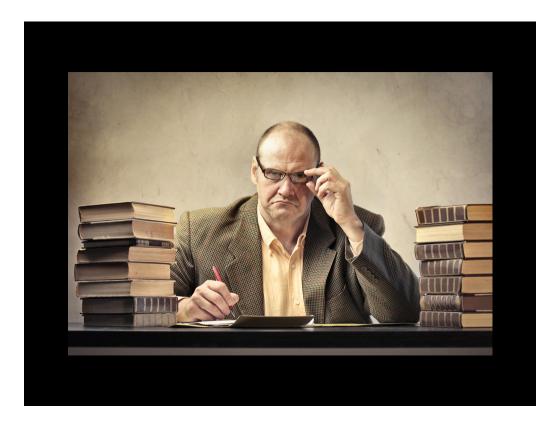


Research Paper: Zebra Mussel Alien Invasion Matt Highnam

The most significant and documented data and content on zebra mussel invasiveness in the United States is that of the Great Lakes and the surrounding smaller lakes in the network. Zebra mussels were discovered in 1986 in Lake Eerie and Lake St. Clair. Within three to five years of observing the initial establishment of zebra mussels in Lake St. Clair, there was extremely high to near mortality of the unionid population especially after the increased climb of infestations in the summer of 1989. This trend persisted and within the next two to three years the unionid population had been almost completely extirpated. This trend seemed to be matched in the much large water body of Lake Eerie. Mainly in the western part of the lake was where studies took place and the zebra population was established and flourished in no time. In one to two years the zebra population was observed to sky rocket while the unionid population decreased dramatically. These observations were supported by statistics as from 1989 to 1991 the unionid population, after three years of the zebra mussel invasion, went from 53% alive and 47% dead, to all 100% of the unionid population in western Lake Eerie being dead. This drastic occurrence greatly supported and exemplified the dire effects zebra mussels had on unionids as this was unprecedented since unionids had thrived in western Lake Eerie for centuries prior to this. From the Great Lake systems, zebra mussel populations became established in rivers such as the Mississippi and the Illinois in around 1990. This was thought to have occurred most likely from veligers contained in water flowing in canals that connected the Illinois river to Lake Michigan. These rivers and, other rivers that were soon invaded, displayed the same exact exponential increase in zebra mussel population and consistent decrease in unionid populations as the Great Lakes exhibited. "Zebra mussels not only colonized unionids but also essentially covered the entire surface of the gravel bar...They formed a pavement made up of zebra mussel shells



... after paragraph. So if your target audience is, say, a college professor, *this* is how you deliver the data.



For years, then, *this guy* has been the gatekeeper for those long-form essays. *He's* the guy you always needed to please. But what pleases *him* may not actually please most *normal* people.

(Incidentally, I debated whether it was sexist to depict this stereotypical professor as a *man*. After all, just because someone's in a position of authority, we shouldn't automatically assume it's a *dude*. But then I thought, "Would it not be sexist to use a *grumpy woman* to represent all college professors?" This is always a worthwhile dilemma to ponder, especially if you're a journalist or page designer, though you can argue back and forth without ever really reaching an infallible verdict.)



CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN CHARLES DICKENS' "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" by Ben Dover

As Joe says in Great Expectations "It is far better to be uncommon on the inside than the outside." A person's possessions do not matter as much as a person's actions. How wealthy and or how high someone's social stature is does not bling them true happiness. It is what they believe on the inside that brings them happiness. The author of Great Expectations, Charles Dickens, was trying to say that sometimes people rely too highly on money to bring them happiness, while two happiness comes from the people that love and care about you. Although in the beginning of the book some characters did believe money and social status brought them happiness, they soon realized that this was incorrect. Three characters in the book that figured this out are Pip, Miss Havisham, and Estella.

Havisham, and Estella. Pip is a simple black smith's boy who wants to become a gentleman when he realizes his own upbringing is common. Although he has little morely he still accomplishes his dream with the help of his benefactor. While going through the stage of being ashamed and embarrassed of his friends and family he deeply hurts Joe and Biddy. Pip leaves for London to become a gentleman, but leaves behind his common life with Joe and Biddy included. In London Pip learnes some essential lessons in more management and social stature. After many incidents pertaining to his money and social status he decides that this glorous life is not all that it is cut out to be. He decides his life no longer brings him happiness, because he becomes very lonely without Joe and Biddy around. Pip comprehends the importance of his traits like loyally and kindness. He finally realizes that no amount of morey can make up for the lack of his traits. The belief that coodness is always able to overcome evil is shown in Miss Havisham whose inberent coodness is apparent.

can make up for the lack of his traits. The belief that goodness is always able to overcome evil is shown in Miss Havisham whose inherent goodness is apparent despile her wrongdoings. Although Miss Havisham seeks revenge on the male sex in the beginning of the book, she finally realizes the consequences of her actions. She discovers that not only had she ruined Estella's life she also ruined Pip's life. By using Estella as her puppet she brings her up thinking that all males are hurtul. She then uses Pip as someone to test Estella's eviness on. By doing this she not only caused Pip to have a broken heart she caused Estella to never love anyone. Estellation to the base of the she was the she was the fit of the trained base and the she was the she was the she was a broken base the she was the she was a broken heart she caused Estella to never love anyone.

Estella's inesistible beauty captures Pip's heart and as a young boy, he is infatuated with her. Somehow, despite her cruelty to Pip and her judgement of only his outside not his character, she becomes the star of his expectations. Although, Estella is the successful product of Miss Havisham's upbringing in that she fully does what the old lady raised her to do, she seems to struggle with it. Estella judges Pip clearly on his appearance and commonness, then she learns there is more to him. Although she knows he loves her, she tells him that she cannot love him back because she has no heart. It seems righteous to say that beneath her heart of ice is a simple girl who is honest enough to try and explain to others her lack of feeling and understanding of what is important in life

Essentially, this is a novel about gratification and humility, as well as honor. The theme of Great Expectations touches on every aspect of common emotions like pride, ambition, envy, greed, and arrogance. The lesson Pip, Miss Havisham, and Estella leam people that love and care about you. Although in the beginning of the book some characters did believe morely and social slatus brought them happiness, they soon realized that this was incorrect. Three characters in the book that figured this out are Pip, Miss Havisham, and Estella.

Pip is a simple black smith's boy who wants to become a gentleman when he realizes his own upbringing is common. Although he has little money he still accomplishes his dream with the help of his benefactor. While going through the stage of being ashamed and embarrassed of his friends and family he deeply hurts Joe and Biddy. Pip leaves for London to become a gentleman, but leaves behind his common life with Joe and Biddy included. In London Pip leames some essential lessons in money management and social stature. After many incidents pertaining to his money and social status he decides that this glorious life is not all that it is cut out to be. He decides his life no longer brings him happiness, because he becomes very longly without Joe and Biddy around Pip comprehends he importance on his traits like loyally and kindness. He finally realizes that no amount of morey can make up for the lack of his traits.

The belief that goodness is always able to overcome evil is shown in Miss Havisham whose inherent goodness is apparent despite her wang dooings. Allword was have been a single and her actions the beginning of the book, she finally realizes the consequences of her actions. She discovers that not only had she ruined Estella's life she also ruined Pip's life. By

Sadly, most normal people don't have the interest or the patience for theme papers like this. In the *real* world, they grade them much more harshly.

Tomatoes coming off menus

By Karissa Stewart and Jeff Gable Rome News-Tribune Staff Writers

Don't expect to bite into a raw tomato at lunchtime or anytime soon. Many area restaurants are no longer serving them because of a salmonella outbreak.

nella outbreak. McDonald's, Applebee's, Wendy's, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell have all stopped serving the raw fruit.

Locally grown tomatoes are cleared from the salmonella scare. Salmonella food poisoning

Salmonella lood poisoning first linked to uncooked tomatoes has spread to 16 states, including Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

Cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, tomatoes sold with the vine still attached and homegrown tomatoes are likely not the source of the outbreak, Center for Disease Control officials said.

Produce from Arkansas,



Many restaurants are pulling fresh tomato products from their menus because of a recent outbreak of salmonella.

California, Georgia, Hawaii, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Israel, the Netherlands and Puerto Rico has been cleared and are not linked to the outbreak. Salmonella is a bacteria

Salmonella is a bacteria that lives in the intestinal tracts of humans and other

animals. It usually is transmitted to humans by eating food contaminated with animal feces.

Most infected people suffer fever, diarrhea and abdominal cramps starting 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness tends to last four to seven days. Many people recover without treatment, but severe infecON THE WEB Read this story online to see a CDC report about the

see a CDC report about the salmonella outbreak.

www.romenews-tribune.com

tion and death are possible.

Produce managers at Kroger and Kmart in Rome said their stores have pulled some kinds of tomatoes as a precaution, while East Rome Wal-Mart manager Steve Barber said their supply of tomatoes comes from an unaffected supplier.

The IGA store on Shorter Avenue also gets its tomatoes from an unaffected distributor, according to manager Kathy McStotts.

Karen Peterson, the corporate communications manager for Food Lion's corporate office in North Carolina, said many stores in its chain have pulled tomatoes off the shelf while they determine if the fruit is from the affected areas.

Please see FRUIT 2A

So wouldn't that be true for news stories, as well?

Take a story like this: A few years ago, consumers across the country began contracting salmonella food poisoning from tainted tomatoes. Everyone was nervous, and justifiably so.

So here's how most newspapers presented their front-page story: a generic tomato photo, and 20 (or more) inches of traditional text.



Or is this a more efficient way to present that information? Here, the important info is broken into short, digestible chunks. It's more concise (and much less detailed) — but might it communicate more easily and effectively?



Another example — same story, different front page. But again, ask yourself: Does this "chunked" version of the story communicate in a more accessible way?



Suppose the president gives a speech . . . in this case, announcing a major new jobs proposal. Here's the traditional way to lay out that story: big photo, headline, and a dozen meaty paragraphs of text.



Would readers prefer this version, instead? We've added a liftout quote to that photo. But more importantly, we're using boldface bullets to highlight key points of the plan.



Or is this even more effective: packaging key points of the plan in a colorful sidebar?

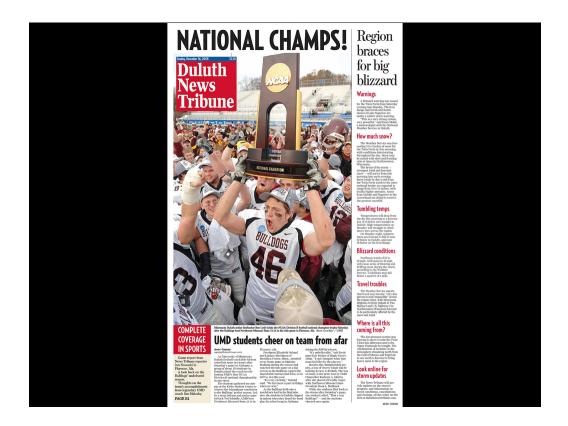


But wait! How about this: A more dramatic display headline. A few inches of introductory text. Bullet items that detail points of the plan. Reactions from key members of Congress. And a "What Happens Next" sidebar leading to more stories inside the paper.



Your Father's Newspaper vs. a chunked, short-form alternative. Which do you prefer?

More importantly, which would do a more effective job of attracting eyeballs and *keeping them engaged* for a longer period of time?



Let's look at some different ways newspapers have chunked stories. (And remember, the intention here is NOT to trivialize information, or to dumb it down. The goal is to make important information more accessible.)

A big blizzard is coming. How big? How bad? How soon?

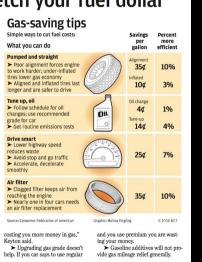
Check the tires to stretch your fuel dollar

That and slowing down will work; having windows open instead of using the air conditioner won't.

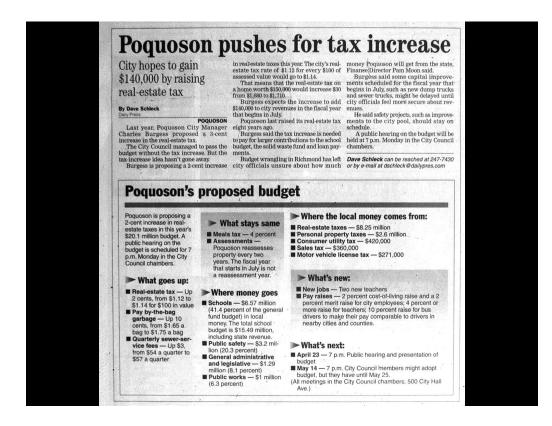
By Laura Richey Staff Writer

<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text>

COPING WITH AN UNCERTAIN **ECONOMY** One in a series running Mondays in the Dayton Daily News



Look at the delivery of information in this package. How much did the writer depend upon traditional inverted-pyramid reporting?



Budget stories are often extremely tough to comprehend. Which version do you think communicates better — the main story, using narrative text, or the sidebar, which itemizes the key statistics?



Here's a restaurant review aimed at readers with small budgets and short attention spans. Note how everything on the page is bitesized and easy to digest.



This two-page spread in an entertainment tabloid provides everything you need to know to survive the coming zombie apocalypse.



Notice how two of the three stories on this front page use boldface keywords to introduce chunked paragraphs summarizing key bits of information.





Improve your collaboration.



Journalists — especially newspaper journalists — are notoriously bad at collaboration. Don't believe me? Take a look at this typical feature page.

It's easy to predict how that lead story came together:

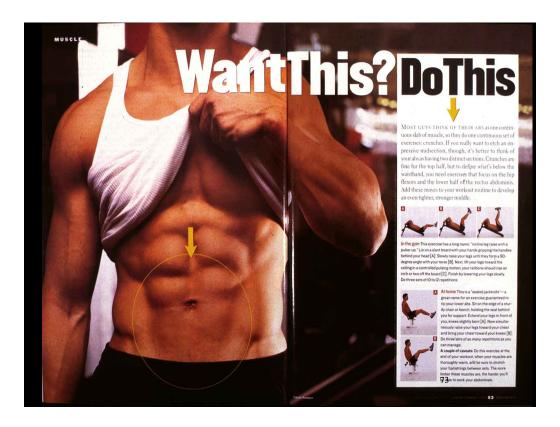
1) The reporter decided to find out - as the first sentence clearly states - "What's the best way to tone your abs?" So he talked to some experts, got some useful tips, and typed up a long story. 2) Then the reporter (or maybe an editor) ordered some photos, and a photographer ran off to the gym. Or, better yet: they found a trove of free photos (!!) from the American Council on Exercise.

3) Next, a designer laid out the page so the photos and text looked attractive and tidy. Unfortunately, the photos don't really make much sense on their own, and it's hard to find where they're explained in the text. . . . but the readers can sort that out for themselves, I guess.

4) The designer left space for a big headline, and a copy editor came up with: AB-SOLUTE BEST. It's a pun! Copy editors are word people who love clever puns, even if their meaning is vague like this is.

So this is how a typical newspaper page comes together. The end result isn't

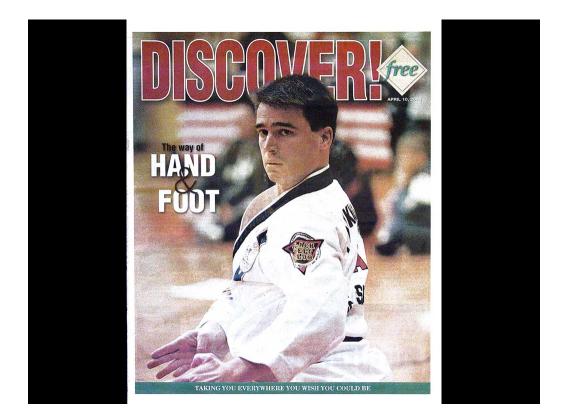
terribly compelling, though. And notice how the story, the photos and the headline fail to work together in any obvious way. They're disconnected from each other. Like the staffers who produced this page.



NOW here's that same story presented in Men's Health magazine. Notice the difference? See how the big headline and photo work together? How the headline leads right into the text? How the text gets right to the point? How the cutlines describe each photo sequence?

Does this page grab your eyeballs? Deliver the data in an effective way?

Or do you prefer the newspaper version?



Yes, collaboration is hard, but the results can be terrific — even in a small newsroom like the one at the N-West Iowa Review, an award-winning weekly paper.

Let's thumb through a typical issue of their entertainment tabloid.



Here's that cover story, on martial arts classes for kids. It occupies a two-page spread. Notice the format: a few introductory paragraphs, then a half-dozen short-form options ranging from lists to fast-fact boxes to a Q&A and a glossary.

There's a lot of information here, but very little traditional text.



Another story (by that same writer) about upcoming clown classes. Again, a short introduction followed by a sidebar, a Q&A and some fast facts.



Another short-form layout — again, in the same issue — because hey, it's almost racing season! Here's all you need to know on one page: where the races are, what types of cars, and how to attend the upcoming racecar show.



Yet another short-form preview. In fact, nearly everything in this issue is packaged in short, appealing chunks like this.

Did these stories come together like that by accident? No. The newsroom has a system in place for planning and packaging stories with this end result in mind.

And that system is known as "The Maestro Concept."



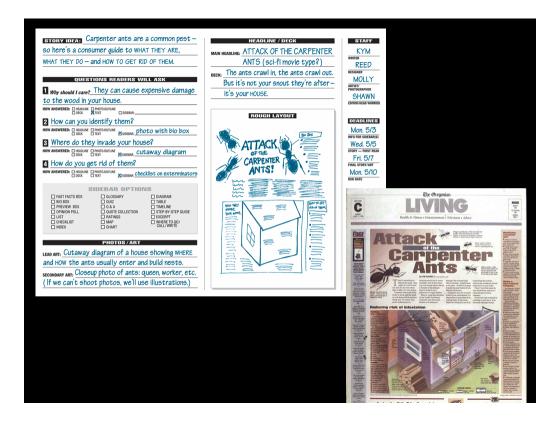
The Maestro Concept was devised back in the 1990s by Leland "Buck" Ryan, a journalism professor (and longtime friend of the author). For a detailed analysis, I recommend the Wikipedia entry for *Maestro Concept*.

In short, it's a process for encouraging teamwork among newspaper staffers. For integrating words, images and design. For reminding journalists to "think like a reader."

STORY IDEA:			HEADLINE / DECK	STAFF
			MAIN HEADLINE:	WRITER
	ESTIONS READERS V	VIII ASK	DECK:	DESIGNER
1 Why should I care? _				ARTIST/ PHOTOGRAPHER
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE				EDITOR/HEAD WORRIER
2	□ TEXT □ SIDEBAR:		ROUGH LAYOUT	DEADLINES
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE HEADLINE HEADLINE	□ PHOTO □ TEXT □ SIDEBAR:			INFO FOR SIDEBAR(S)
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE	□ PHOTO □ TEXT □ SIDEBAR:			STORY — FIRST READ
4				FINAL STORY/ART
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE	□ PHOTO □ TEXT □ SIDEBAR:			RUN DATE
	SIDEBAR OPTIC	ONS		
□ FAST-FACTS BOX □ BIO BOX	GLOSSARY	CHART DIAGRAM		LENGTHS
WEB SITE LINKS LIST	Q & A EXCERPT			MAIN STORY
CHECKLIST	OPINION POLL MAP	QUOTE COLLECTION		SIDEBAR(S)
	PHOTOS / ART			OTHER NOTES:
LEAD ART:				
SECONDARY ART:				

Basically, the concept is this: The best time to collaborate — to brainstorm that big story — is *before* the story gets written. Before the reporter sits down, alone, to start typing those 30 paragraphs of text.

So imagine a meeting where we kick that story around: *we* being the reporter. The editor. The photographer. The designer. In fact, *anyone* who's got a stake in that story gets to help shape its treament during a quick (five-minute session) where they fill out this form. Together. Collaboratively.



Here's an overview of how that works. At left, the completed maestro form, which resulted in the printed page at right.

Now, things may surely change as the reporter gathers more information, or as the artwork comes together. But with this process, at least there's a beginning blueprint that guides the evolution of the package.

If you're presenting this slideshow

to a class or a newsroom and you'd like to test-drive the Maestro Concept, the next 10 slides will guide you through a typical front-page example.

If you would like to print out a physical copy of this form, 1) export the previous slide, scale it to fit your printer output, and print out copies, or 2) download a PDF of the maestro form from the NSPA website, then print out copies as needed.

STORY IDEA:			HEADLIN	E / DECK	STAFF
					WRITER
01155	TIONS READERS WI		DECK:		DESIGNER
					ARTIST/ PHOTOGRAPHER
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE					EDITOR/HEAD WORRIER
	TEXT SIDEBAR		ROUGH	LAYOUT	DEADLINES
	PHOTO/CUTLINE TEXT SIDEBAR:				INFO FOR SIDEBAR(S)
3 HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE	PHOTO/CUTLINE				STORY - FIRST READ
□ DECK	TEXT SIDEBAR:				FINAL STORY/ART
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE	PHOTO/CUTLINE TEXT SIDEBAR:				
	SIDEBAR OPTION	s			RUN DATE
 FAST FACTS BOX BIO BOX 	GLOSSARY QUIZ	DIAGRAM			LENGTHS
PREVIEW BOX OPINION POLL LIST	Q & A QUOTE COLLECTION RATINGS	TIMELINE STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE EXCERPT			MAIN STORY
CHECKLIST	MAP CHART	WHERE TO GO/ CALL/WRITE			SIDEBAR(S)
	PHOTOS/ART				NOTES:
LEAD ART:	Filoros/Am				

OK, here we go. We've got a big, breaking story for tomorrow's front page. So first thing, top left corner of the maestro form: What's the story idea, in 25 words or less? (This forces the reporter or editor to boil the concept down into an easily digestible nugget.)

In this case, here it is: UFOs have been landing at night, abducting local citizens.

Make sense? Once everyone

understands the concept and agrees that it's worthy, you proceed to the next section.

STORY IDEA:				LINE / DECK	STAFF
			MAIN HEADLINE:		WRITER
			DECK:		DESIGNER
1 Why should I care?	NS READERS W				ARTIST/ PHOTOGRAPHER
IOW ANSWERED:					EDITOR/HEAD WORRIES
DECK TEX	SIDEBAR:		ROU	GH LAYOUT	DEADLINES
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE PHO DECK TEX	TO/CUTLINE				INFO FOR SIDEBAR(S)
3	TO/CUTLINE				STORY — FIRST READ
4	SIDEBAR:				FINAL STORY/ART
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE PHO	TO/CUTLINE				
SID	EBAR OPTIO	VS			RUN DATE
FAST FACTS BOX	GLOSSARY QUIZ	DIAGRAM TABLE			LENGTHS
PREVIEW BOX OPINION POLL	Q & A QUOTE COLLECTION	TIMELINE STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE			MAIN STORY
CHECKLIST	RATINGS MAP CHART	EXCERPT WHERE TO GO/ GALL/WRITE			SIDEBAR(S)
					NOTES:
	PHOTOS/ART				
LEAD ART:					

Now, *think like a reader*. What are the biggest, juicest, most pressing questions readers will have about this topic? For instance, how about: *Where have the abductions occurred? (Is it anywhere near MY house?)* Excellent question. And how should we answer that question? Can we do it with a photo? With a headline? Down in the 17th paragraph of the text? Or is there a sidebar that would work like, say . . . *a map*? You don't have to write anything down just yet. But keep churning out questions, like: Who's been abducted? Is this some kind of hoax? Are the abductees claiming that they were **probed**? And for each question, try to determine the best way to answer: text, artwork, sidebar, graphic?

But the most important question of all — the one you must ask *for every story you ever do* — is this: Why should I care? The answer may not always be obvious, so try asking in different ways: *How does this affect ME*? Or What should I *be doing about this*?

Once you feel confident about your questions and answers, fill in the form and move on to the next section.

STORY IDEA:			HEADLINE / DECK	STAFF
			MAIN HEADLINE:	WRITER
				DESIGNER
	TIONS READERS W	ILL ASK		ARTIST/ PHOTOGRAPHER
				EDITOR/HEAD WORRIER
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE	PHOTO/CUTLINE TEXT SIDEBAR:		ROUGH LAYOUT	DEADLINES
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE				
3				INFO FOR SIDEBAR(S)
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE	PHOTO/CUTLINE TEXT SIDEBAR:			STORY — FIRST READ
4				FINAL STORY/ART
HOW ANSWERED: HEADLINE	PHOTO/CUTLINE TEXT SIDEBAR:			RUN DATE
\$	BIDEBAR OPTIO	VS		
FAST FACTS BOX BIO BOX PREVIEW BOX	GLOSSARY QUIZ Q & A	DIAGRAM TABLE TIMELINE		LENGTHS
OPINION POLL LIST	QUOTE COLLECTION RATINGS	STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE EXCERPT		MAIN STORY
CHECKLIST INDEX	MAP CHART	CALL/WRITE		SIDEBAR(S)
	PHOTOS/ART			NOTES:
LEAD ART:				

At this point, you could begin discussing photo options (with the photographer right there, helping guide the process). Want mug shots of the abductees? Can you get a photo of the UFO tonight? Or should the lead art be the map that shows where the UFOs have landed?

Your page designer could now start sketching out the package: put the artwork *here*, the sidebars *there*. In fact, you could even kick around headline ideas *now* — while you're fresh — instead of saving that for last, when everyone's tired and pressured by deadlines.

That's the process in a nutshell. When it works, it makes those big stories more accessible, more reader-friendly, betterdesigned, more visual. It encourages collaboration by spreading the ownership around — it's not *just* the reporter's story anymore.

So let's see how this page might have actually turned out:



If we hadn't maestroed the story, a photographer would have visited one of the abductees and shot this corny photo of the guy saying, "Here's where they probed me."

Abducted by aliens?

Four area residents claim they were probed aboard an alien vessel – and as fear spreads throughout the region, authorities battle an outbreak of mass hysteria

By PATRICK MINNIEAR The duple deacon

Interdum volgus rectum videt, est ubi pece Si veteres ita miratar laudatque poetas, ut ni anteferat, nihil illis comparet, errat. Si quaedi nimis antique, si peraque dare dicere credi e ignave multa fatetur, et sapi et mecum facit lova iudicat acquo. Non audicat acquo.

Non equidem insector obtenuatve carmina Livi in esse reore, menini que plagoaum mihi parvo Orbilium dictare; sed emendata videri pul- Si chraque et eucatis minimum distanta miror, an Inter que verbam emicuit si forte decorum, et si na dire que verbam emicuit si forte decorum, et si ptotum ducit venditque poema. Si métiora dies, ut vina, poemata reddit, scire vefin, charlis pretum quotas aroget annas, es

seriptor abline annos centum qui decidi, inter prefectos vierenges referi dobte in inter villa que el morosofi. Entreparte a la presidente al presenta entre a la presidente a la presidente al presenta entrema qui preficia annos.⁶ Quid, qui depreiti minor uno meme vel annos, inter quos referendos entre Vieres entre poenter honeste, "Inste quidante vieres inter poenter honeste, "Uno premisso, candeciope pilos at equinas puntion vierto una demostra entreparte pilos at sintari vello una demostra forte parte postera presidente demostra entreparte pilos at equinas puntions vello una demostra entreparte pilos at espines parte parte parte a sintario demostra entreparte parte pa

elussos rationes ruentis acersi, qui redit in fastos et virtutem aestimati anais miraturque nibil nisi good Libitina saceravit. Ennius et sapines et forisi et alter Homerus, ut critici dicunt, leviter curare videtur, quo promissa cadant et somnia Pythagorea. Naevius in manibus non est et mentibus hareret paene

parto immunitri organizzati in transi, esta in preclati, pielo Si vetteres in ministra landarge poetas un nihil miror, anaferat, nihi illi scomparet, errat, Si quadam est in minis antique, si perague dure dioree credit cos, itoste ignave multa fateur, et sapt et mecum facit et lova indicat acquo. Non equidem insector delendave carmina Livi nus, esser cor, mennini que plagosum mili parvo

> tornini ucenic; acd cuncionan viceni par hinguo et cusatis minimum distantia mirori terretague referit debet an inter vilis errus paulo concimier unus et alter, iniuste terrus paulo concimier unus et alter, scire Si meliora dies, ut vina, poemata reddit, scire vienim

ann, enams pretum quotus arriget annus, senptor abhina anos centum qui decita (inter prefetcas) feetos veressupe referri delet an inter vilis adque no sos? Excludat jurgia finis, "Est vetus adque probatum qui perfet annos". Qui, di qui deperiti quo reference uno mense vel annoet exastis minimum attana mirori. Inter que verbum emotioni i "Tiste e tre decorrum, et si versus puido concinnior us et alter, iniste totum duoit verbuge.

Bill Cantrell, left, explains to his wife, SJ hovered abovh his trailer Fildus night be Bill dis compression (end), see the national sector of the sector of the higher sector of the sector of the higher sector of the sector of the compared a castler minimum diantem and optimum districts, sector of the trained sector of the sector of the

> neliora dies, ut vina, poemata reddit, scire Caeclius, c, darsis pretium quotus arroget annus. Hos edi or abhine annos centum qui decidit, inter konvost? Exeludat iurgia finis, "Eat vetus probus, centum qui perficit annos," dul. Si veters oppolas, centum qui perficit annos," dul. Si veters pretit minor uno mense vel anno, inter anteferat, arctiverse postas, and quo ministi anti ceresna et postera resputa setas?

s inter ponetur honeste, el toto est iunior anno. o etiam unum, dum cadat cervi, qui redit in fastos et

wife, Shifey, how the alien spacecraft gibt before beaming him aboard.

excention: second properative repetitioners, be Caselilus gravitane. Teremino artice. It is those adjoints: labels then summarizing propersion of the second second

> on equidem insector delendave carmina Livi reor, memini quae plagosum mihi parvo ilium dictare; sed emendata videri gilt iliatis TURN TO ALIENS, Page A2

That photo would have anchored this traditional story design: Headline, deck, photo, and 20 paragraphs of traditional text. And there it is: your front-page centerpiece. Perfect for your father's 1966 newspaper.

But what if we had constructed a package based upon the questions on our maestro form?





Four area residents claim they were probed aboard an alien vessel – and as fear spreads throughout the region, authorities battle an outbreak of mass hysteria

by PATRICK MINNEAR The Bugle Bescon

s rectum videt, est ubi precat. atur laudatque poetas, ut nihil is comparet, errat. Si quaedam pernague dure direcer eredit cos. caspit et mecum facit et o. supit et mecum facit et o.

defendive carmina Livi nortrum tempta Livi scriptoris ab avco plagosum mili gravo Insteinur volgan returni vice, est ub emenduta vicen palsis veteren ita minuta laddatoge poetas internas antiferat, nilal Illis comparet, errat. Si e to forte decorum, et si nimis antique, si prenape du chere er unus et alter, iniute ignave mala fatteur, et apit et mecun lova indetta negato.

> annus, ese reor, memini quae plagosum mihi parvo t, inter Otbilium detare; sed emendata videri palro vilis benaque et exactis minimum distanta miror. anno." perfectos veteresque referri debet an inter vilis vetes Inter quae vetum emicuis i forte decorum, et si Quid, versus paulo concimior unus et aller, iniuste o, inter totum duei vendique poema.

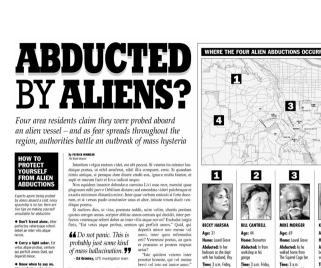
Si metiora dies, ui vina, poemata redoit, sore velim, charis precium quotus arogest annus, scriptor abbine annos centum qui decidit, inter anno." perfectos veteresque referri debet an inter vilis se pauatque novos? endati Expedicabi urigià finis, "Est vetus adque probus, sasso et centum qui perficit annos." Quid, qui depririt di riti missione que monte vali annota exatite insignment di riti missione.

que nhil nisi minor uno mense vel annote exactis minimum distantia miror. Inter quae verbum emicuit si er Homerus, ut forte decorum, et si versus paulo concinnior r, quo promisn. Naevius in baeret parne. Si meliora dies, ut vina, poemata reddit, scire



First, let's fix the right half of the layout. Instead of that corny photo, we'd run a map to answer the question, Where have the abductions occurred?

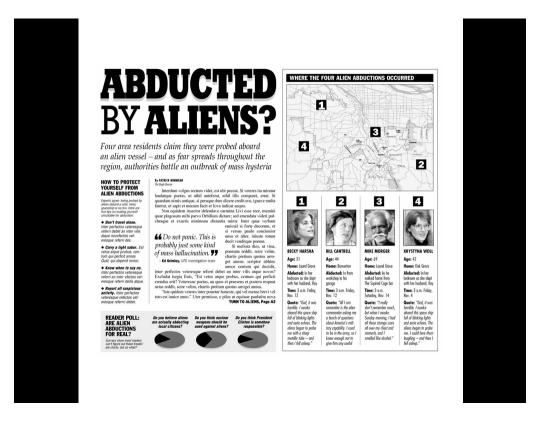
And maybe our second question was: Who's been abducted? To answer that, we created bio boxes for each of the abductees — and paired those with our map to show who was abducted where.





What was the "Why should I care?" for this story? Hopefully, you would have come up with something like: How do I protect myself from the aliens? And to answer that question, you could ask a UFO expert for a list of bullet-item tips – and you'd run it here, at the very top of the story.

Notice, too, that we've jazzed up the headline a bit more, since we'd written it in advance.



Like the layout so far? If I were in charge, I might have asked one more question during the maestro meeting: *Is this just a hoax?* Which we could have answered with a quick reader survey (maybe send someone to the mall and ask 100 people these questions.)

Could be a good sidebar. Or maybe it's just making the page too busy. Now that I see it in print, I think I'd prefer



an alien vessel - and as fear spreads throughout the region, authorities battle an outbreak of mass hysteria

By PATRICE MINIMEAR The Rople Beacon

Don't travel alone. Inter

• Carry a light saber. Est

Know when to say no referri an infectos veteres referri an inter vilis atque novos.

 Report all suspicious
 activity. Inter perfectos veteresque referri debet an inter
 mis atque novos. Contact the FBI. Inter perfectos veteresque referri debet an inter vilis atque 555

veteresque refe nter vilis atque

volgus rectum videt, est ubi peccat. Si veteres ita miratur lau-tas, ut nihil anteferat, nihil illis comparet, errat. Si quaedam que, si peraque dure dicere credit cos, ignave multa fatetur, et cum facit el los utilocat acquo: cum facit el los utilocats acquo addem insector delendave carmina Livi esse roor, memini quae didem insector delendave carmina Livi esse apit et me Non equ

Non equidem insector delendave carm plagosam mihi parvo Orbhium dictare; se evacits minimum distantia miror. Inter qu ditague poema. Si meliora dies, ut vina, poemata rede quotus arroget annus, scriptor abbine aan rectos veteresque referri debet an inter vii finis, "Est vetus atque probus, centum The optimization of the state and the state of the state

etiam menu, dura cada disua monos non-con-vintarema sestima antis minintege reliabili ini aj cada Elibitina sacravit. Ennisis et supines et fortis et alter Horenev, si ertifică decute, liviter menu vidente, que possisa cadant et soanta Palagoress. Nacina în comen pozna, antisgiare quoteste, sure arros în piror, anfer Dascina decu estanta al ecempte Social importer Efectorium, viscere Cacellius pravi-tate. Terentina ant. Freedmin ante: Internita ante sure qui sur a freedmin ante.





... this version. OR do you prefer . •

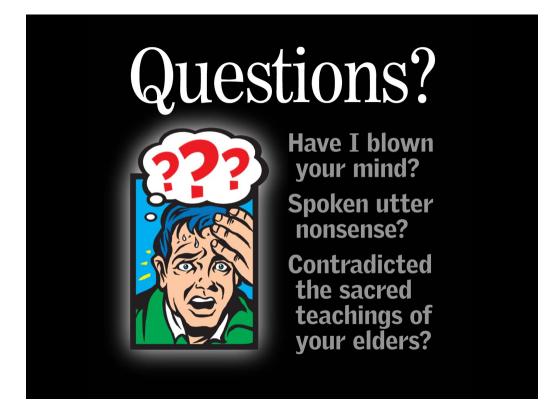
• •

Abducted by aliens?

Four area residents claim they were probed aboard an alien vessel – and as fear spreads throughout the region, authorities battle an outbreak of mass hysteria

. . . the traditional version – the one that would run in Your Father's Newspaper? Which version attracts eyeballs better? Delivers the information more effectively?





If you're intrigued by this process, you're bound to have questions. Such as:

Do we do this for every story?
Probably not. At first, it may be best to focus on your big lead
(centerpiece) news, feature or sports stories. Change, after all, is difficult.
But once the workflow smoothes out, you could require this for, say, all stories over 20 inches. Or 20 paragraphs. Or 1,000 words.

And test your readers to see if they're actually reading more material this way (see slide #46 above).

— Who's in charge? Many papers have had success with creating a Staff Maestro position — someone who "gets it" when it comes to merging words and visuals in short-form packages. But it doesn't need to be that formal. What's important is to encourage, or even mandate, maestroing each big story, since most journalists loathe meetings — and reporters, especially, hate being forced to share ownership of *their* stories.



Let's review. In particular, let's review this **"Why Should I Care?"** concept.

Take this front-page story, for instance, on sewer rates. (And by the way: You know you've hit rock bottom when a story on sewer rates leads your front page.)

Anyway, read the headline. Read the deck. And now tell me: Why should I care?



Ah! Here's the answer, buried halfway down the page: Your sewer bill will increase five bucks a month.

At the very least, shouldn't THAT have been somewhere in the big type?



Two pages from 2010, when Congress approved dramatic healthcare reform (known as Obamacare).

Which do you prefer: the traditional approach at right, or the more typographically aggressive, **what-itmeans-to-you** approach at left?



Another what-it-would-mean package (from the Virginian-Pilot), on a plan to expand the local naval base.



Or this example – a money story – from Time magazine.



Here's a budget story from the Columbus Dispatch. These stories can be awfully dull, but by 1) Adding YOU to the headline, and 2) breaking up the text into bullet items, it suddenly seems much more relevant and accessible.



Take a story like this: mountain lions have begun roaming around your town. What's the *Why Should I Care?* (Answer below.)

For this story, you've actually got two excellent "why should I care" questions: 1) Where have the mountain lions been spotted? (Are they anywhere near MY HOUSE???) To best answer that, we need to display a map. And as it turns out, there IS a map in that top photo but it's, uhhh, under the guy's hand. Which makes that photo worthless.

2) How do I protect myself if I encounter a mountain lion? Again, this layout takes us halfway there on the second page, with that LET HIM KNOW IF YOU'VE BEEN MAULED sidebar. But no, what this story really needs, right there on Page One, is the What To Do explainer, with bullet-item tips and a photo of a mountain lion — maybe even a mountain lion bio box (size, weight, dietary habits, etc.)



One final example. Suppose you live in Portland, Oregon, in the shadow of the Cascade Mountains — the stomping grounds of the legendary Bigfoot!You decide to do a story on local Bigfoot hunters. . . . and this is how the finished page turns out. Sadly, it's a dismal failure: Clumsy typography, amateurish photography, pine needles (get it? From the forest?) scattered haphazardly around the page. And acres of dull, gray type. Isn't there some better way to package a story like this? Suppose you decide to try again — and this time, use the Maestro process to produce a more engaging, interactive package. What could you differently? What would it look like?

And most importantly, to start on the right track: What's the best answer to the question **Why Should I Care**?



This page began by asking the question, *How Can <u>I</u> Find Bigfoot?* There it is, the most interactive, engaging **Why Should I Care?** question of all.

And once you've chosen that to be your organizing theme, the rest of the page falls into place. You can even see how other think-like-a-reader questions got answered: *Where can I find Bigfoot?* That's a map. *How do I identify him?* That's a bio box. And so on. (It's even got a long, narrative story about bigfoot trackers, like that previous page did — if you're interested in *them*.)

Attracting eyeballs. Delivering data efficiently. Thinking like a reader. Chunking. It's all here, in this example. Now that you've seen how it works for stories about UFOs and Bigfoot, are you willing to apply it to *real-world journalism*?

