The Elements of A News Article

Taken from <u>Reading and Writing for Success</u> (71)

The important information in a news article is highlighted by the following elements:

Headline: It catches your eyes and sums up the story. It is usually in larger font and often bolded. "Shantoya wins $50 Million!"

Byline: This tells you who wrote the article and sometimes gives you the journalist's specialty, for example, "Science Reporter"

Placeline: It tells you where the story originated.

Lead: This gives the most important information very briefly (usually who, what, when and where)

Body: It supplies additional information. It is divided into small paragraphs.

Facts: Every news article includes simple, true statements about what happened, such as "The flooding set the building's security system off at 5:15 a.m."

Quotations: These retell, word for word, what someone actually said. Usually these quotations come from witnesses at the scene, or experts on a subject. For example:
Mrs. Nanavati, principal of Fletcher's, said, "It was one of the most amazing things I have ever seen!"