Talkback Guide for Reading or Writing News Stories

What's the topic of the article?

The main topic of this article is _____. Tip-offs: The headline and first paragraph confirm this topic by _____.

What important ideas are expressed about the topic?

The 5 W's and 1 H are _____. The most important ideas to remember are _____.

Does it clearly make known how this event/issue relates to other events and issues, in the past and future? In other words, does it have important "global" implications? How should it help me think about things that are important?

This article was important to read/compose because _____. It connects to and will influence future issues like _____ by _____. The ideas covered were all about making the point that _____. This helps the reader to understand that _____ were organized around the topic/central issue of _____.

Is the story coherent? Do all the story ideas relate to each other?

The ideas covered were all about making the point that _____. This helps the reader to understand that _____ were organized around the topic/central issue of _____.

What reading/composing strategies am I using to create meaning? What tools am I using as I critique the structure, the writing, or the content of the piece?

When I read/composed this article, I had to do certain things/make certain moves as a reader, such as _____.

News stories are a type of general expository text that lays out information. Because news stories are short, students can get repeated practice with techniques that can help them in reading more extended informational texts, such as textbooks. The following guide can be used to help students with any kind of expository text.