Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Main Elements of a News Article**

There are certain elements that are common to almost all articles that you will read in the newspaper or find on the Internet. The following list explains the five major components, or parts, of a news article.

1. **Headline (Heading)**

The headline is the title of the news article. The headline should be short, does not include a lot of detail, and should catch the readers’ attention. It is normally not a complete sentence, and tries to summarize the main idea or subject of the article. It is often printed in larger letters than the rest of the article, and the major words are capitalized.

1. **Byline**

This line tells who is writing the article. It may also include the address of the author and the publication or news source for which he or she writes.

1. **Placeline**

This line tells the location where the story takes place or begins. It is usually written in all uppercase letters.

1. **Lead Paragraph(s)**

The lead paragraph is found at the beginning of the article. The lead briefly answers the 5w-1h questions: who, what, when, why, where, and how. The ‘skeleton’ of the story can be found here.

1. **Supporting Paragraph(s)**

These are the paragraphs that follow the lead. They develop the ideas introduced by the lead, and give more information in the form of explanations, details, or quotes. In many newspapers, these paragraphs are found on subsequent pages.