Newspaper Layout

You’ve all written great articles that will become part of a newspaper. Your articles will have a headline and your byline, but how do you decide where to place them in the paper? Consider these general guidelines:

• Top priority are the articles near the front (pages 1 – 2). These are the news items of interest to all students in your class and perhaps to the whole school: For example, the opening of a computing center, safety topics, or a new principal coming to school.

• Next come the “feature” articles, such as:
  ▪ Stories on a teacher, classmate or event at the school (say, a book fair or a school concert)
  ▪ Articles about topics outside of school (story about a relative, pet, hobby, etc.)
  ▪ Sports and entertainment stories.

• Group similar subjects together on a page:
  ▪ Science articles on animals, the planets, the sun, etc.
  ▪ Articles on academic subjects
  ▪ Feature stories on teachers, a principal or other school personnel
  ▪ Reviews of Harry Potter books and a biography on author J. K. Rowling.

• Do you have a picture or graphic to go with the article? Placement of an article sometimes depends on how much space you have for an illustration. Always put the picture with the story.

• How long are your articles? If your main story is long and has a photo to go with it, it could take up most of the front page. So, to make room for other stories start your main story on the front page to draw the reader’s attention, then continue — or “jump” — it to an inside page.