

Behind the Headlines

Breaking down a Feature



Choose a feature from the Guardian or another news source. See if you can answer the following questions.

Introduction

The introduction of a feature often includes an anecdote, quote, or dramatic statistic.

1. Describe the feature's introduction. What does the author use to introduce you to the subject they are covering?

Nutgraph

This is the 'nutshell paragraph', usually appearing a few paragraphs in. It states why the author is writing this story and is often related to a current news item.

2. In which paragraph does the nutgraph of the feature you're reading begin?

3. Why has the author written this feature?

Exploration

This is where the author explores the subject in more detail, revealing the depth of their research.

4. Fill the three boxes below with either the names of people who are quoted (and details of why you think they were chosen) or statistics used.

Ending

A feature should take a reader on a journey and end in a different place than it began. It has a clear ending that wraps up the piece without restating what has previously been said. Sometimes this will mean ending with a powerful quote, referring back to the beginning, or calling the reader to action.

5. Describe the ending of the feature you're reading.