

Behind the Headlines

Writing an opinion piece



Choose an opinion piece from the Guardian or another news source. Can you answer the following questions?

Introduction

The introduction of an opinion piece often includes an anecdote, quote, or dramatic statistic.

1. Describe the opinion piece'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 opinion piece you're reading begin?

3. Why has the author written this opinion piece? Are they connected to the subject?

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 comment or opinion piece should take a reader on a journey. 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 opinion piece you're reading.