

Magazine article structure

1 Topic

The article introduces the issue, which may be something topical and in the news or recently published research, a proposal which has been put forward by a government or other agency, or the description of the person that the article will concern. Unlike a news report, which is purely informative, and a speech, which is argumentative, a magazine article is mainly a form of discursive writing.

2 Background

The article is likely to fill in the past history of the person or event which the article concerns, so that readers are fully aware of the necessary facts and reason why the article has been written and what has led to the current state of affairs.

3 Discussion

The article is likely to return to the present-day situation at this point, discussing and giving different viewpoints of the person or event, with details, examples and quotations, and making comparisons with the past or with similar topics. Though the writer's own viewpoint may be inferred, alternative views must be given equal weight and other voices heard.

4 Prediction

At this point the article may deal with the future developments or predicted outcome of the present situation (e.g. that a person will go on to become even more famous and successful, or that a current situation will develop in a particular direction).

5 Conclusion

The article needs a neat conclusion, which may be an ironic reference or humorous comment, an evaluation of the different viewpoints, a reference back to the beginning of the article, or an apt quotation.