

## News Lead Exercise

Write a 1-2 sentence for each of the following. First decide what the most and least important information is and write it down in the blank spaces, then write your lead. Remember the 5 W's and "how".

1. Special school board meeting tomorrow. Purpose: Decide the fate of suspended teacher, Mr. Maxwell Smart. Time: 7:30 p.m.. Public welcome. Place: Meridian High auditorium (not board office, too small). Reason for teacher suspension: Accused of striking student. Presiding over hearing: School board president, Lisa Mullen.

Most important \_\_\_\_\_ Least important \_\_\_\_\_

2. <sup>Store</sup> Robert's Party Robbed. \$75 taken. Two armed robbers. One with a hunting knife, the other with a sawed-off shotgun. 1 injury. Elvira Perkins suffered a cut on her forehead when she fainted. Treated and released. Robbers last scene in 1983 Ford Escort. Blue color. First armed robbery in 17 years in town of Kreske. Robbers still at large.

Most important \_\_\_\_\_ Least important \_\_\_\_\_

3. Williams Lake Beach closed. DNR closes for health reasons. Public safety at stake. Abnormal bacteria levels found in water testing. Closed for next three months. Cause: Excess sewage from town sewage system. DNR cites no swimmers had been previously exposed. Don't panic they urge. Don't eat fish from lake, either. Steps taken include proposing a new sewage treatment facility. Will cost millions, but not officially proposed yet.

Most important \_\_\_\_\_ Least important \_\_\_\_\_

4. Fraser High students with National Merit Scholarship awards. Only 20 given out across the country. Merril Langdon and Tim Houghton announced as winners. Both juniors at FHS. Award includes a \$10,000 scholarship. No FHS students have ever won before. Award ceremony in one month in Washington D.C.. Three other winners from Michigan. National Merit Scholarship is a national competition for high school students. Tests academic and interpersonal communication skills. Students take standardized tests and personal interviews.

Most important \_\_\_\_\_ Least important \_\_\_\_\_

5. Judge sentences stalker to 10 years in prison. Convicted of stalking a 16 year old high school student. First stalking case in Michigan to be successfully tried. New application of get-tough state stalking law. Convicted: Roger Smith of Warren. Former postal worker. Ten more stalking cases awaiting trial.

Most important \_\_\_\_\_ Least important \_\_\_\_\_