

Basic Story Structure (Chicken Little) diagram

Lede: Focus on most important thing SAID	The world is coming to an end, predicted famous futurist Chicken Little on Tuesday.
Supporting Quote/soundbite (includes Where)	“I’ve seen the sky falling – big chunks of blue raining down,” Little told students at the S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.
Background/ Context/ gives credentials of speaker and reason he’s at Newhouse	Little became famous for predicting the Mount St. Helen volcanic eruption in 1980. Two years later, he won an Oscar for his documentary, “An Inconvenient Vision,” foretelling global warming. His predictions of the world ending have brought criticism from other futurists, who say his observations are drug-induced hallucinations. Little was at the Newhouse School as part of its “Leaders In Vision” lecture series. About 100 students packed a lecture hall to hear Little.
Nut Graf: Summarizes story’s other 3 main themes (underlined) – the story in a nutshell. Date-transition (in speech Tuesday)	In his speech Tuesday, he also called on the journalists to <u>be a voice</u> for the voiceless, to <u>speak truth</u> to power and to <u>pay</u> their taxes.
Develops Lede’s theme. (uses a TOPIC transition))	<u>On his prediction of the world ending,</u> Little declined to give a specific date. “But it will be sometime this year,” he said.
Develops Theme 1 in Nut Graf (Topic transition)	<u>On journalists serving as a voice for voiceless,</u> Little urged them to seek out people left out of the political debate. “Those voiceless people have no say in democracy, unless journalists give it to them,” he said.
Theme 2 in Nut Graf (Topic Transition)	<u>On journalists speaking truth to power,</u> he encouraged reporters to hold public officials accountable. “That’s good watchdog journalism,” Little said.
Theme 3 in Nut Graf (Topic Transition)	<u>On paying taxes,</u> Little told the journalism students that they have the same tax obligations as all other citizens. “Journalists don’t get a free ride,” he said.
Summary of audience reaction (sometimes this could be the lede)	Reaction from his audience was a mixture of enthusiasm and skepticism.
Support of first reaction	Susie Smith, a freshman in broadcast journalism, praised Little as a courageous visionary. “He’s got the guts to say the unpleasant things that we should think about,” said Smith.
Support for second reaction/kicker quote/soundbite	John James, a senior in online journalism, expressed strong doubts about Little’s predictions. “I think he’s eaten too much chicken feed,” said James, “and it’s affected his brain.”