

Magazine article structure

1 **Topic**

Introduce the issue, which may be something topical and in the news, or recently published research, or 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 informative, and a speech, which is argumentative, a magazine article is 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 and 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 predicament will become worse if nothing is done about it, or which side will win the political debate.

5 **Conclusion**

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