

## Summary Lead Variations

**Directions:** The traditional summary lead attempted to give as much information as possible in as few words as possible. However, this often makes a lead cumbersome. As a news writer, you want to provide the reader with a brief summary of only the most important, most unusual, or most interesting facts of the story.

You should include the following:

1. Who? What? When? Where? Why? or How?
2. Attribution (source of the information)
3. Identification of source and subject

Read the following variations of the modern summary lead. Note how each makes use of differing news values to emphasize a different fact.

1. **Who**—Julie Smith, senior class president, remains hospitalized in serious condition following an automobile accident early Monday, according to Mercy Hospital officials.
2. **What**—A collision between a pizza delivery truck and a taxicab Monday night sent Bill Grafton, junior, to Mercy Hospital, according to police.
3. **When**—Just 15 minutes after the last car left the student parking lot, a broken water main opened a sink hole 25 feet in diameter just inside the exit.
4. **Where**—The south entrance to the CHS parking lot, often referred to as "Collision Corner," claimed three more victims Monday afternoon. According to police, three students were injured and remain hospitalized in critical condition.
5. **Why**—Hurrying to get to an evening play rehearsal sent Ellen Hanks, sophomore, to Mercy Hospital in critical condition Wednesday. Police said her 1965 Mustang collided with another vehicle near the entrance to the school parking lot.
6. **How**—Falling down the steps when his crutches slipped in a soda spill, quarterback Hank Johnson reinjured his left knee and will miss Friday's game against Bodine, according to Hilda Wannamaker, school nurse.
7. **Featurized lead**—The "absent minded professor" has nothing on Principal Robert Shaw. Shaw drove his new white Oldsmobile Cutlass into his regular parking space Tuesday morning at 7:30 only to discover that the space was covered with fresh tar. Monday afternoon Shaw had warned students not to use the front parking lot because of scheduled resurfacing work to be done.
8. **Punch**—a terse, high-impact lead  
Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley is dead.