How to analyze a newspaper article

News stories:
- provide information on current events which interest the readers
- only based on facts → avoids additional information about the event & story behind and also writer’s opinion

Comments:
- offer views on current issues
- 3 different types:
  - Editorial → contain comments based on newspaper’s tendency (liberal/conservative) – close to reader’s views
  - Op-eds (opposite editorials/ opinion editorial) → give second or different opinions on a subject
  - Columns → short essays on different topics the journalist is free to choose

Typical features:
→ Main purpose > to inform the public
→ Secondary purpose > to influence the reader’s opinion
→ Fairly objective prose language
→ Containing dates, acts, information about current events & themes

Structure of a newspaper article

Headline:
- Gives the reader an idea of what the article is about
- Contains eye-catching words to grab the attention of the reader

Introduction:
- Tells readers in a more detailed way what article is about
- Has to be interesting so that readers continue reading
- Known as a “stand- first”
- Often printed in bold font
Elaboration:

- More information about the story that is outlined in introduction

Quotes:

- Make the article more objective (by keeping a balanced viewpoint)
- Can also make the article more subjective → mostly indication of bias (Voreingenommenheit)
- add credibility to a claim

Examples of tasks:

1.) Outline the author’s argument and include his main points
2.) Analyse the way the author uses structure, argumentative techniques and language to attract and persuade his readers
3.) Discuss the author’s view on “.…” (the given topic)

Questions for analyzing a newspaper article:

1.) What kind of headline is it? What techniques are used?
2.) In what kind of style is the text written? (formal or informal, serious or funny?)
3.) Which stylistic devices are used?
4.) Is there anything striking with regard to the structure?

Stylistic devices often used in newspaper articles:

- **metaphor**: to arouse the interest of the reader
- **Personification**: to simplify matters by reducing complexity
- **Irony**: to utter indirect criticism
- **Antithesis**: to illustrate developments/alternatives
- **Repetition**: to draw attention to important aspects
- **Claims**: no room left for doubts (appeal to general knowledge)