

BP-54 · Bigger Picture · AI Move of the Day

Understand a News Story

News making no sense? Get the plain version in 2 minutes. Learn what happened, why it matters, and what background you need — then check a second source.

Start the quick move

Build the prompt

YOUR CURRENT LEVEL

0 XP

Level 1: Headline Skimmer

Choose a neutral story

Ask plain-version prompt

Separate what / why / background

Check a real outlet

Check a second source

Say it in one sentence

The news-decoder move

Sometimes the headline is short, but the background is huge. AI can help you slow the story down and understand the basics.

Keep this neutral. Pick school-safe stories about science, sports, weather, technology, business, culture, education, health awareness, or local civic life. Avoid partisan or hot-button political stories for this exercise.

1 **Pick one news story**

Choose a story you partly understand, not one designed to make people angry.



Good choice

Science discovery, space mission, weather update, sports result, technology launch, exam policy explainer.



Use caution

Stories with strong opinions, unclear facts, rumours, or dramatic social media claims.



Skip for this activity

Partisan fights, hate speech, private tragedies, graphic violence, or stories that need expert adult guidance.

Paste headline or describe the story

Example: India launches a new weather satellite to improve cyclone tracking

THOUGHT BULB

A good news reader asks: What happened? Why does it matter? What background am I missing?

☐

I chose one neutral news story to understand.

2 Ask the explain-the-news prompt

Perplexity is useful because it can show sources. ChatGPT, Claude, or Gemini can also help explain the background.

YOUR FILLED PROMPT

Explain this news story to a 15-year-old. What happened, why it matters, and what background I need: [paste headline / describe it]. Keep it neutral. Separate: 1. What happened 2. Why it matters 3.

Background I need 4. What is known vs what needs checking 5. Two source types I should verify with

COPY-PASTE PROMPT

Explain this news story to a 15-year-old. What happened, why it matters, and what background I need: [paste headline / describe it].

Keep it neutral. Separate:

1. What happened
2. Why it matters
3. Background I need
4. What is known vs what needs checking
5. Two source types I should verify with

Copy my filled prompt

CAUTION BOARD

AI may oversimplify, miss context, or rely on outdated information. Use it for the plain version, then verify with a real news outlet.

☐

I used the plain-version news prompt.

3 Sort the answer into 3 buckets

This keeps you from drowning in details.

Bucket	Question	What to write
What happened?	What is the basic event?	One or two sentences. No drama.
Why it matters	Who or what is affected?	Students, families, city, environment, sports team, science, economy, school life.
Background I need	What do I need to know first?	Definitions, timeline, earlier event, place, organisation, rule, or technology.

My 3-bucket news notes

What happened: _____

Why it matters: _____

Background I need: _____

What I still need to check: _____



☐

I sorted the story into what happened, why it matters, and background.

4 **Verify with a real outlet**

AI is not the news source. It is the explainer.

1

Original outlet

Read the article or report where you first saw the story.

2

Second outlet

Check another credible source to see if the core facts match.

3

Official source

For science, weather, exams, transport, or public updates, check an official page if available.

4

Date check

Make sure the article is current and not an old story being reshared.

VERIFICATION PROMPT

Help me make a verification checklist for this news story:
[paste headline or summary]

List:

1. The 3 core facts I should check
2. What kind of source can verify each fact
3. What signs would show the story is outdated, exaggerated, or missing context

Do not invent sources.

Copy verification prompt

☐ I checked the story against at least one real outlet or official source.

☐ I checked a second source or noted that I still need to.

5 Watch for headline traps

Headlines are designed to get attention. Understanding needs more than the headline.

Trap 1: Big words, no background

Ask AI for definitions and context before forming an opinion.

Trap 2: One side only

Ask what facts are known, what is uncertain, and what another reliable source says.

Trap 3: Old story looks new

Check date, place, and whether the story has been updated.

Trap 4: Emotional headline

Slow down. Separate facts from reactions.

SMART READER MOVE

Do not ask “What should I think?” Ask “What happened, what is known, what is uncertain, and what should I check?”

6 Tell someone the story in one sentence

If you can explain it simply, you probably understand it better.

My one-sentence version

Example: This story is about ____; it matters because ____; the key background is ____.

One person I can tell

Example: parent, teacher, friend, classmate

CLOSER

Tell someone the story in one sentence. Not a speech. Just the plain version.

☐

I wrote a one-sentence explanation I can tell someone.

7 **Optional: make your AI Move card**

A small reminder of the news-decoder move.

CARD COPY

Title: AI Move of the Day

Move: Understand a news story you do not fully get.

Prompt: “Explain this news story to a 15-year-old. What happened, why it matters, and what background I need: [headline].”

Rule: Keep neutral. Verify with a real outlet and check a second source.

Closer: Tell someone the story in one sentence.

☐

I made, sketched, or saved the AI Move card.

Final 5-minute move

Complete this: “At first I did not understand _____. Now I understand that _____.”

My clearer news sentence

At first I did not understand _____. Now I understand that _____.



☐ I kept the story neutral and avoided partisan/hot-button topics.

☐ I verified the story with a real outlet or official source.

☐ I can explain the story in one sentence.

NOTEBOOK LINE

Write this down: **“AI can explain the news. I still check the news.”**

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Questions? Teachers and parents, write to us. Students, speak with your teacher or a grown-up first.