Beyond Detail

The first paragraph in a news story is called a lead. The lead usually tells you:

- **Who** (or what) is involved?
- **What** happened?
- **When** did it happen?
- **Where** did it happen?
- **How** or **Why** did it happen?

Further paragraphs then provide additional details and information.

**EXAMPLE:** An alarm going off at 2 a.m. last night bought police to Cheltenham Elementary School, where they interrupted a break-in in progress. Charlie Mattingly (35) and Brian Parks (48), both of whom had criminal records, were taken into custody without bail. When questioned about the incident, Parks told police he was seeking to locate and destroy his own permanent school records.

**DIRECTIONS:** Write the first paragraph of a news story. You can write about something that really happened, or you can make something up. First, brainstorm the 5Ws on the back of this page. Then, on the lines to the right, compose your lead.