

ANATOMY OF A NEWS STORY

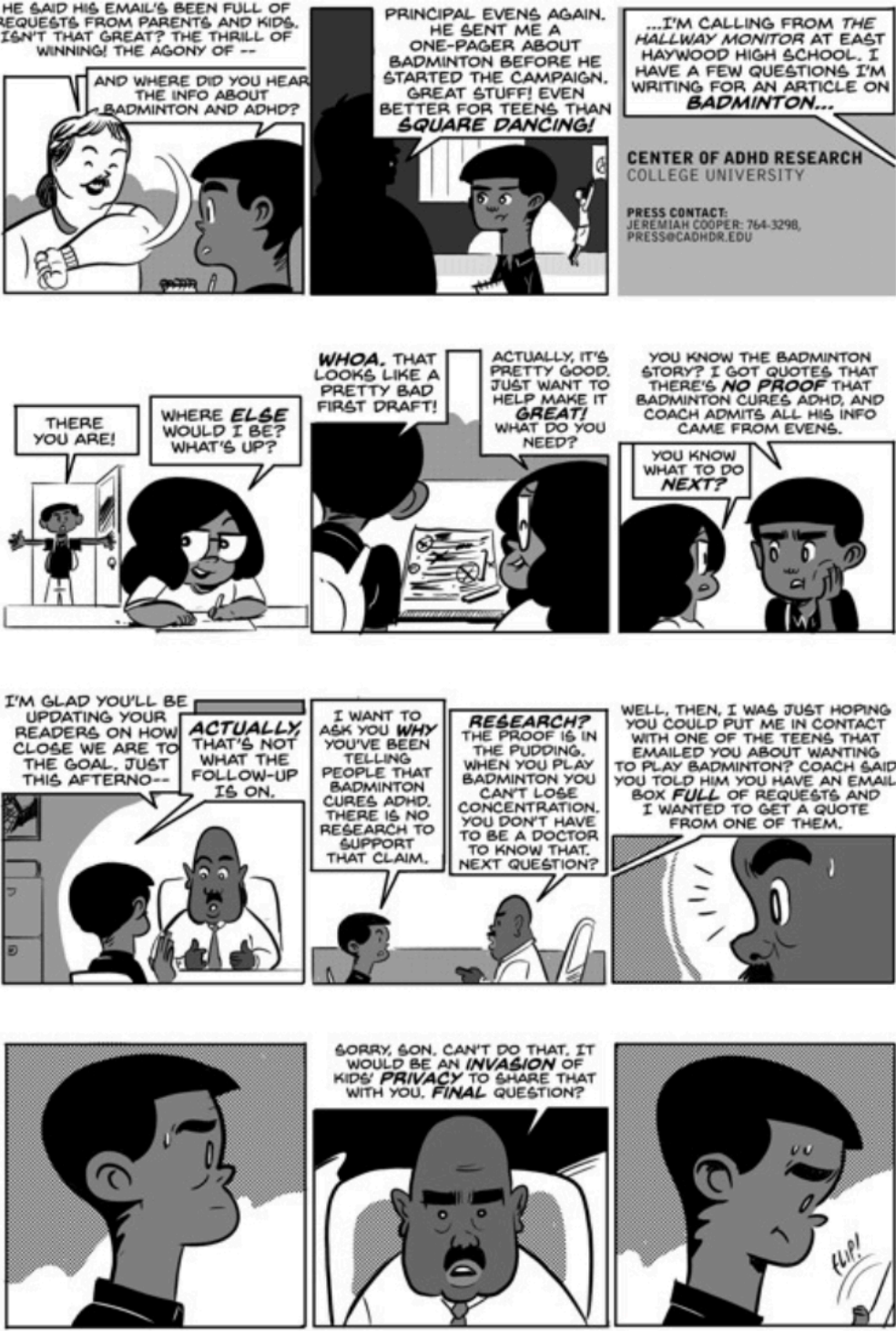


Byline—Tells the reader who wrote the story, who it is “by.”

Nut graf—A paragraph that tells the reader the story in a nutshell. It informs the reader of the basics: the who, what, when, and where. The rest of the story delves into the why and the how. Another way of looking at it, according to Betty Ming Liu, a professor at New York University, is that the nut graf gives readers a sense of **What Was, What's New, What's Now**. For some news stories, the lead and the nut graph are the same thing. For feature stories, or for stories that don't use a news lead, the nut graf often appears as the second or third paragraph.

Even before you begin writing your piece, try summarizing the results of your reporting. This helps you focus the piece and can feed into your nut graf. It's deeper than asking yourself what the story is about. What did you, as the reporter, find out?

Lead quote—The first quote in the story. Often the most powerful quote.



What do you notice about these two statements?

