Broadcast sports news story structures

1. The Inverted Pyramid:

- This is the most common structure, especially for breaking news or game reports.
- It starts with the most crucial information: the final score, key players, and the overall significance of the event.
- Followed by supporting details: highlights, context, quotes from players and coaches.
- Ends with less important information or background.
- **Example:**
    - Headline: "Lakers Win Championship in Thrilling Final Game"
    - Lead: "The Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Boston Celtics 100-98 in a nail-biting Game 7 to win the NBA Championship on Sunday night."
    - Body: Game highlights, key plays by LeBron James, winning shot details, crowd reaction.
    - Tail: Season summary, historical context of the rivalry.

2. The Narrative Arc:

- This structure is used for feature stories, profiles, or in-depth reports.
- It follows a chronological order, building suspense and drama.
- It includes a beginning, rising action, climax, and resolution.
- Emphasizes storytelling and engages the audience emotionally.
- **Example:** A story about an athlete's journey to the Olympics:
    - Beginning: Athlete's childhood dreams and early struggles.
    - Rising Action: Training montages, overcoming obstacles, qualifying matches.
    - Climax: The Olympic competition, the athlete's performance.
    - Resolution: Outcome of the competition, athlete's reflections, future plans.

3. Thematic Structure:

- This structure focuses on a central theme or issue related to the sport.
- It presents different perspectives, examples, and arguments related to the theme.
- It provides analysis and context, often exploring the broader implications of the topic.
- **Example:** A story about the impact of social media on athletes:

    - Introduction: The growing influence of social media in sports.
    - Body: Examples of athletes using social media effectively, controversies related to social media use, expert opinions on the impact on athlete-fan relationships.
    - Conclusion: The future of social media in sports, ethical considerations for athletes and journalists.

4. Question/Answer Format:

- This structure is common in interviews or press conferences.
- It presents a series of questions and answers, providing insights from a key figure.
- It can be used to gather information, explore opinions, or provide analysis.
- **Example:** A post-game interview with a winning coach:
    - Interviewer: "Coach, what was the key to your team's victory tonight?"
    - Coach: "Our defense played exceptionally well, and we were able to capitalize on their turnovers."
    - Interviewer: "Your star player seemed to struggle in the first half. What adjustments did you make?"
    - Coach: "We made some tactical changes at halftime, and he was able to find his rhythm in the second half."

The choice of story structure depends on the specific event, the angle of the story, and the target audience. Broadcast sports journalists often combine elements of different structures to create engaging and informative reports.