News Story Analysis Worksheet

Directions: Using the news story provided, analyse the content to learn more about the topic as well as the process of writing an informational news story. Be as specific as possible with all of your answers, referring back to the news story in your answers when appropriate.  
1. What was the headline for the story? Dr Conrad Murray’s defence begins uphill battle in Michael Jackson case  
2. Discuss the effectiveness of the headline in summarizing the story and getting the reader’s attention. It sums up the story well, it tells whom it’s about, how it is going for the defence.  
3. Briefly describe the factual content of the story related to the lead: 5 W’s and the H.  
• Who: Dr. Conrad Murray  
• What: Dr. Conrad Murray’s defence against manslaughter   
• When: Article was posted 25th October 2011. Singers 25th June 2009 death.   
• Where: U.S court  
• Why: Manslaughter case.  
• How: Doctor left patient at a crucial moment, causing the patient to have an overdose.  
4. How did the end of the story summarize the main ideas and provide closure for the reader? It didn’t?  
5. Facts in a news story are supposed to be arranged from most to least important. Do you believe the author did this effectively? Why? Yes, from expert opinion to “friends” of the doctor.  
6. Writing style is important in keeping those reading and listening to the story engaged. Comment on the use of the following throughout this story:  
• active voice – They use it a-little, but as the article generally has no interest to me, it wasn’t very engaging.  
• precise, concise wording -   
• interesting and varied word choices – They do use a-few interesting and varied word choices  
• unbiased reporting – Was unbiased, tells what was and is happening, without making it an arguementive  
7. Discuss the accuracy of the facts used in the story. How do you know that the sources used were reliable and accurate? Provide specific examples. Direct quotes from witnesses involved with the case.  
8. In what way did the use of quotations….  
• add to the credibility of the story? It does.  
• make the story more interesting? In a way, it adds, nothing special though.  
10. present differing points of view about the topic? No, just tells us what is happening. Unbiased.

9.Comment on the use of visuals and other links to this article. How they provide a more comprehensive coverage N/A

-11. What 3 questions would you use to lead a discussion of this article? His dead, it happened, revoke his licence and move on would be a satisfactory punishment for this accident agreed? Does there need to be such a large case over something that happens multiply times a day? Where is bobs coverage, care and justice for his murder?

12. What do you think of this article? Not much.