

**START  
HERE:**



# Develop the Story

Through a combination of interviewing, direct observation and other "research," you have become the EXPERT on this potential story. The evidence of your expertise must be recorded below, must be substantiated (check your sources/facts!), must be reported legally and ethically, and must be comprehensive.

*Three plus sources:*

**Primary (with brief explanation):**

**Secondary (with brief explanation):**

2.

3.

**Additional:**

**THE STORY IN 25 WORDS OR LESS**

**CONTROLLING CONCEPT**

THEME/PLOT(S):	The 7 Plots: -Darkness to Light -Overcoming the monster -Rags to Riches -The Quest
SUPPORT:	-Voyage & Return -Rebirth -Tragedy (There are hundreds of sub-plots, but all great stories are a combination of these.)

*Faces of the Story:* There are no stories without characters. As a reporter, you need to look for people who have overcome obstacles, achieved great things, or faced disappointment. Your story may have multiple faces, but must have at least one character to move beyond a report/calendar items. Some of your reporting may not involve compelling characters, but it is still important to look for those stories. You and your editor will determine where your reporting goes.

WHO ARE THEY? \_\_\_\_\_

IN A NUTSHELL, WHY DO READERS NEED TO MEET THESE CHARACTERS?

*Make your case to your editor:* You are now ready to present the results of your reporting & possible story possibilities. Prepare your argument & meet with your editor. Include notes below/on the back.

**From the editor:** Recommendations (circle 1 or more):    • MORE RESEARCH NEEDED    • PRIMARY STORY    • SECONDARY STORY

**Story approved (date):** \_\_\_\_\_    **Section editor:** \_\_\_\_\_    **Editor in Chief:** \_\_\_\_\_