

The 5Ws Description



5Ws is an acronym that stands for “Who, What, Where, When, Why”; some authors add a sixth question, “How”, to the list. The **5Ws** is an analysis method, composed of several stages that question the fundamental characteristics of a situation.

They are often mentioned in journalism, research and police investigations. According to the principle of the Five Ws, a report can only be considered complete if it answers these questions starting with an interrogative word.

Basic information conveyed by a report according to the 5Ws procedure:

Who?	Who is the story mostly about?
What?	What happened in the story?
When?	When did it take place?
Where?	Where did it take place?
Why?	Why did it happen?
How?	How did it happen?

Further information you may add in a report according to the 5Ws procedure:

- **Who** wrote that article?
- **Where** was it issued?
- **When** was it issued
- **What** does it talk about?
- **What's** your opinion on the matter?