# The Front Page

The front page of the print version of the New York Times is, on a certain level, a piece of artistry, or "assembly," as design director and deputy managing editor Tom Bodkin puts it. Although at first glance it might not appear so, it has its own particular rules and basic structure. Notably, unlike the majority of other newspapers, the lead story is positioned in the upper right-hand area of the page and often is only one or two columns wide. The average number of stories (six) has decreased over the years. The front page has a great deal of text, which reinforces its broken-up, vertical look, similar to newspapers of an earlier era when modularity was not yet the

norm. Says Bodkin: "The challenge is to incorporate multiple ingredients (articles, headlines, photographs, information graphics) guided by numerous publishing concerns (hierarchy, article type, graphic impact, visual balance) into a coherent whole that serves as a guide to the news development of the day, an entry to the most compelling stories, and a cover for the entire package that is the daily New York Times." Bodkin still uses paper and pencil to create sketches because he swears "it is the fastest, most fluid way for me to visualize the interrelation of the various elements and work out an arrangement that will best express the news and our newspaper for that day."

1. The front page from September 6, 2013, announcing the passing of Nelson Mandela.

2. The front page from March 6, 2018. A clear example of a standard layout of the Times with the most important news in one column-width, positioned upper right.





## **Basic Design & Layout**

#### LOGO

The logo of the New York Times has remained basically unchanged for several decades.

The last major change took place in 1967 when Louis Silverstein removed the period at the end of the logo.

#### SLOGAN -

"All the News That's Fit to Print" is the legendary slogan that has accompanied the logo in the upper left of the front page of the Times since Sunday, October 25, 1896. This phrase had first been used in an enormous ad thought up by Adolph S. Ochs after he bought the newspaper. It hung on the side of a building overlooking Manhattan's Madison Square until the famous Flatiron Building was constructed, blocking the sign from view.

## PRAISING ISIS, GUNMAN ATTACKS GAY NIGHTCLUB, LEAVING 50 DEAD IN WORST SHOOTING ON U.S. SOIL

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#### — TYPOGRAPH

MAIN HEADLINE

The headlines on the front

page are written in uppercase italics in the Cheltenham

All of the front pages of the

independent photograph and on others, as in this example, the image is part of more

font, which was created

The use of typography on the front page follows a code specific to the paper that puts a premium on variation. The leading headlines are written in uppercase italicized NYT Cheltenham font, while other articles might have headlines in Cheltenham Book or Bold Italic.

### - ADVERTISING

on the front page of the Times for the first time on January 5, 2009. Only a few non-invasive formats are permitted, such as this example in two column-widths. A horizontal ad that runs across the full width of the page is another format.



#### NDEX

A broad, 5-column indo organized by sections appears in the lower po of the front page.

#### THE GRID

The basic grid of the *Times* is of six columns, which then shifts to five columns in the front pages of the inner sections and also, as in this example, on the lower portion of the front page of the lead section.

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