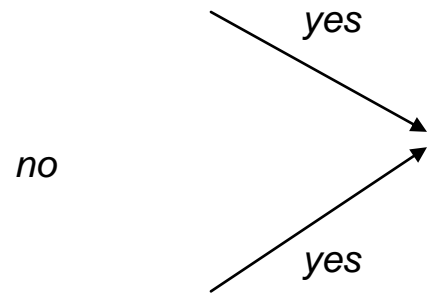# Articles: A, An, & The

An article tells your reader that a noun is about to appear in a sentence. There are two kinds of articles: definite (*the*) and indefinite (*a* and *an*).

**First, decide if the noun is a count or non-count noun.**
A **count noun**

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

# Articles Flowchart

By Christopher LeCluyse of the Westminster College Writing Center

*yes*

*no*

*yes*

# Different Types of Nouns

Count noun examples
window, animal, enclosure, encounter, tree, boat, bridge, avalanche

Concrete noun examples
poem, water, figure, crowd, breath, night, day, sunlight, sunset

Abstract noun examples
poetry, time, theory, knowledge, space

Referring to something in general
Would you hand me a pen?  I want to write a letter.

Referring to something specific:
Did you notice the moon?  We are on the planet Earth.

Plural noun examples
windows, animals, enclosures, encounters, trees, boats, bridges, emotions

The rule of *of*

The time of

day

Adjectives

the third

planet