

Department of Mass Media Communication

Course Details

Course Title: FUNDAMENTALS OF NEWS REPORTING Module: 2
Instructor: AMJID KHAN Total Marks:

Student Details

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Mid Semester ASSIGNMENT

Subject: Fundamentals of News Reporting

Program: BS (MMC) ^{2nd} Semester

Instructor: Amjid Khan

Mid Term (Spring Semester 2020)

Course Code:

Time Allowed:

Total Marks: 30

Note: Attempt all questions.

Q1: Define news and its values in detail?

Defination:

News is information about current events. This may be provided through many different media: word of mouth, printing, postal systems, broadcasting, electronic communication, or through the testimony of observers and witnesses to events.

Values Of NEWS:

Timeliness-

News must be timely. This is a news value, which is of utmost importance to the reader. News is a perishable commodity. Any information, which arrives, even an hour late ceases to be the news. It can turn into information if it is not timely and information is not necessarily news. News is only news for a day, after which it turns into information, history or event or the truth. Truth itself may or may not be news as the truth we know today may not be the truth tomorrow.

Proximity:

We understand news only in terms of our environment and experience. Readers read the news report in terms of their own interest and in relation to their immediate environment. The closer the place is geographically to the readers, the more the value of the news item. If all things are kept common, then interest decreases as the distance increases. Principle of proximity is important and widely evident in the local newspapers. A typical news consumer is interested in familiar faces and familiar places.

Q2: Discuss Beat and its various kinds in detail?

Defination:

The particular feild about which you are going to cover news for electronic or print media, or in-depth reporting of a particular feild is called a beat in journalism. A journalist used to be given a beat according to his or her in-depth knowledge of particular feild.

Types of beats in Journalism

Civic reporting

Civic Journalism is all about the people and what affects them the most in their daily lives – the roads, the traffic, the water supply and so on. Civic journalism should work towards strengthening communities through news coverage that focuses on citizens' concerns, encourages civic participation, improves public deliberation and reconnects citizens, candidates and reporters to community life.

Infrastructure reporting

Rapid industrialization and globalization is putting acute pressure on the world's limited infrastructure. Huge funds from the exchequer are being spent on building railways, roads, ports, airports, telecommunications and electricity generation. A journalist needs to keep a close track of the money and the consequent projects. A reporter on the infrastructure beat must focus articles on ongoing projects and inform readers on what to expect from them, both good and bad.

Crime reporting

Crime stories are always newsworthy and hence a central part of news coverage. Trust me your readers or listeners are always looking for an explanation as to why a crime happened. They ask: “Could it happen to me?”

Crime reporting is not for the faint-hearted and often involves long hours, even longer waits, and dealing with crimes and criminals that are often unsavoury to say the least.

In an ideal world a crime reporter would report the facts and refrain from sensationalising a crime, but in the real world, many readers want the gore and sordid details, so be prepared to get down and dirty.

Health reporting

Health issues are always newsworthy – they are widely reported, and these reports influence physicians, the general public and the government. Reporting on healthcare systems, malnutrition, diseases and malpractice keeps the public informed of emerging epidemics, trends in lifestyle related diseases, and new treatment available.

These days Health reporting is focussing more on preventive treatment, nutrition, fitness, paediatric care, and lifestyle-related diseases. The reason behind this is that an increasing number of news publications and TV channels that people are more interested in preventing serious ailments and keeping themselves healthy.

Environmental reporting

This is the hot beat at the moment. Journalists covering environmental issues cover everything from renewable energy and climate change to pollution and wildlife depletion. These journalists often straddle the Civic and Infrastructure beats and work closely with the Business desk too.

Environmental journalists need to have a wealth of facts at their fingertips and constantly keep themselves abreast of developments in the fields of environmental science, governmental and international policy, and climate change.

Most importantly you must be able to write articles that will give the reader all the information they need in a package that’s easily accessible.

Education reporting

Education is one of the most widely-monitored beats in the newsroom. It is also the one that captures the reader’s attention. Education reporters must have an extensive contact list comprising principals and faculty at the leading schools and universities, and follow events taking place at these institutions.

But most importantly education reporters must wade through the oft tedious governmental education policies and package it in a manner easy to digest by the lay reader. Education reporting can sometimes veer towards activism, especially when it comes to advocating for the education of the economically-struggling.

In India the various common entrance and final exams, and the ensuing results are a fertile ground for articles and news breaks.

Sports reporting

Reporting on sport may seem like a fun way to spend your working life, but for beginners, it’s a slog. Summer days spent in the sweltering heat, covering inter-school football, hockey

and cricket tournaments can be sapping, but watching readers' pore over your article the next day is rewarding indeed.

It is imperative that sports reporters know the nitty-gritties of the sports they are covering. There will be a lot of travel (domestic and international) and the ability to live out of a suitcase is essential. Of course rubbing shoulder with your heroes should be enough to forget those trivial woes.

Entertainment reporting

Yes entertainment reporting does entail meeting the most glamorous people in the world, but it also means having to wait hours for them to show up, if they do at all. While gossip may be at the heart of entertainment reporting these days, journalists will also have to feature-length interviews and profiles, not to mention film and music reviews.

While often regarded as fluff reporting within the industry, entertainment reporters must research their subjects and their canons extensively. And that's not fluffy at all.

Investigative reporting

To be a good investigative reporter you need to have grit, patience, and above all the bulldog tenacity to stick with a story no matter what obstacles are thrown in your path. A good investigative report could take months to see the light of day, but if done with verve and rigour, its impact could be far-reaching. You must also possess the ability to coax honest answers out of some very dishonest people, and separate the lies from the truth. This is one of the toughest beats to master, but once mastered it can also be the most rewarding.

Lifestyle reporting

All your readers have a life. Admittedly some may be more exciting than others. Lifestyle reporters have to be on top of trends that make the lives of their readers more fruitful and engaging. From technology and food to travel and design, the key word here is 'personal'. A lifestyle reporter's writing must possess flair and no small amount of finesse. They offer their readers a glimpse into a life they aspire to. In this day and age of the burgeoning middle class with an ever increasing expendable income, the lifestyle reporter is becoming an exceedingly competitive beat.

Business reporting

Whether you'd like to admit it or not, money does make the world go round, and while The Beatles claimed it can't buy you love, it can buy you a shedload of other things. Business journalists track, record, analyze and interpret economic changes on a global scale and the smaller ones that affect your wallet and household budget. Business reporting is now so diverse that it often delves deep into other beats. Once you get to grips with the jargon, and find a way to live with numbers this is a vibrant beat with an amazing future.

Political reporting

OK so it's not all about sitting with politicians in air-conditioned offices sipping a single malt and shooting the proverbial breeze (although in some parts of the country shooting is a viable option). Political reporting is all about making contacts, cultivating (ego-stroking is more to the point) them, and then milking them for scoops. It's also about understanding and charting the prevailing winds in the political scene. These skills can be honed over time, but a love for all things political is an absolute necessity.

Q3: What is source explain various sources of news in detail?

Defination:

Anything that provides news information for a period of time is said to be a news source.

various sources of news

These are the news sources which are prominent in today's time:

Radio:

It is an audio medium used by many in today's time. We can see people are relying on Radio as a source of information. Radio is prominent and seen in both rural and urban areas. People in rural who cannot afford television rely on radio as it is cheap. If we talk about urban areas where we do not see many using radio at their houses instead they listen in their cars. Over decades radio has gained popularity and is said is a good source of news.

Television:

Television telecasts their news on television through which other newspaper takes there sources. It is said to be the most authentic source of news as it has visuals to establish the authenticity. Television helps and provides newspapers to give detailed information to the audience but television news just doesn't act as the source to the newspaper but also the audience itself.

Newspapers and magazines:

These two also act as a good source of news. Newspaper on both the levels national and international provides the best information in details. The newspaper has 5W's and 1H which gives all the significant information at the starting of the news and further deals with the minor details and same is done in the magazines.

Press release:

Press Releases are generally used for the release of a particular news. The Press Release should contain worthwhile material which has some news value. A Press Release should be written in a journalistic style and provide facts and information of interest to readers and should cover all aspects of a specific subject. The release should be on current subject and a piece of clear writing without any ambiguity, color or ornamentation but it should at the same time not be generally lengthy.

Press notes:

The press notes are less formal in character. These are also issued on important official matters e.g. raising or lowering of tariff rates, price fixation of food grains, subsidy announcement of seeds, fertilizer etc. Apart from the name of department, place and date, a press note mentions headings. Unlike the press communiqué, the newspaper can edit or condense the press notes.

Handouts:

The handouts are issued on a variety of subjects like the day-to-day activities of the ministry or departments, VIP speeches, question and answers in Parliament or legislature and the developmental programmes of government departments. It covers the name of the PIB or information department. No official handout is issued, if the minister or a government official has spoken in his personal capacity.

Press statement:

the statements are usually given by known people, then he shares his statement with media and later this becomes press statement.

Police station:

Every event which is of big concern to the police station would be firstly found in the police station. If the reporter wants to know about a crime scene he would get first-hand information from there.