



FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & ALLIED INDUSTRIES

WRITING NEWS STORY

What is news ?

News is any timely information that interests a number of persons. It is a current event that is of interest to the readers of the news papers. The ornament of a news paper is news. It should be any accurate fact or idea. News is the record of the most interesting, important and accurate information. News is anything you didn't know yesterday.

What is news story ?

News is a report of anything new that interests people. The more people interested in it, the greater the news value. **A news story is an account of events in sequence.** It is used mainly to get information to many people quickly.

The purpose of news story is

- To develop interest
- To inform
- general
- public To disseminate information
- To create favourable attitude

News should be

- Something that
- actually happens
- Unusual
- Important
- New, recent or
- timely Something that interest farmers It should be a new knowledge

Characteristics of good news

- The objectivity of news and newspaper
- Inverted pyramid form
- Completeness
- Write in short paragraph
- Accuracy. Brevity and clarity (ABC of News)
- Adherence of style of news
- Arrangement of news in sequence

- Importance of the news
- Use accepted principles of news writing
- Write the lead sentences
- Use five W's and one H as guide
- Avoid use of personal opinion.

Factors determining news values

Bherens and Evans (1984) mentioned six ingredients which determine news worthiness of information. They are

- Timeliness** - the more timely the information the greater is the news value
 - Nearness** - the closer the information to the receiver geographically and psychologically greater is the news value
 - Consequence** - the more the audience are affected by the information the greater is its news value
 - Human interest** - information concerning human interests elements have more news value
 - Prominence** - prominent people places things, events carry more news value
 - Editorial policy** - the editorial policy of the organization broadly determines the kind and amount of information it shall present to the audience
- In addition to this there are some other factors which determine news value include Uniqueness, impact, suspense, conflict, emotions, progress, importance, surprise, numbers, sex and novelty.

Principles of writing news stories

- There should be specific purpose in writing that is either to inform, educate or entertain
- Know about the people to whom we are writing
- Know the subject on which the readers are interested
- Information communication has to be timely and immediate
- Simple and clear writing is a must
- Sound convincing should be there
- Avoid exaggeration
- Use personal words to make it interesting
- Select right and short words

- Avoid unusual words
 - Follow the one sentence one idea approach
 - Use short paragraph and short sentences
 - Smooth transition from paragraph to paragraph
 - News writing must be specific
 - Direct and meaningful quotations can increase interest honesty is essential
 - Don't use rumors
 - Use qualities when necessary
 - Use past tense avoid distortions
 - Use elegant variations
 - Use active voice
 - Avoid jargons, use simple terms
 - Make the captions attractive
 - See the lead paragraph is interesting
 - Ensure that news story answers five W's and one H
- Rules for writing news

- News reporting must be short and brief
- Unnecessary words should not be repeating
- Negative words should be avoided
- Passive voice should be avoided too
- Much use of words or ornamental words should be avoided
- Reporting should be done on a specific subject
- Write so as to create interest in readers
- Follow good language and correct grammar
- Avoid mistakes

- Select good words and correct use of words
- Correct spelling of the word should be ensured
- Avoid mixture of present and past sentences
- Use current traditional words
- Traditional words can also be incorporated
- Use simple words timely use of right words should be ensured
- Each news paper should have its own style of writing
- Slang words or languages should be avoided
- Any complex technical information should be written in very simple language

How to Write a News story?

Six elements are considered for writing news and they are the five "W"s and the "H." i.e. Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? Any good news story should provide answers to each of these questions.

Who?

Several questions should be asked in order to highlight any people who may be involved in the story.

What?

What is going on?, What had happened? , What do the readers? , What can people do about it?. Answers to these simple questions should be driven by key moments in the story and the forces that have created the issue or alternately, fixed the problem. This factor is the basic premise that supports why the story is news worthy.

When?

It is important to include a timeline of events. At what point does the story begin?

Where?

Where is the action? This includes more than just an address. What the location looks like, sounds like and smells like as well as any surrounding locations that might impact the story. A great news writer would be able to describe the location with minimal words.

Why?

Are there circumstances beyond the immediate story that contribute to the question, why?