



FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & ALLIED INDUSTRIES

Agricultural Journalism

Types of events

The type of event will sometimes present different twists and challenges in how you cover it:

Meetings. Most public bodies' meetings are open, governed by state or federal laws. Know the appropriate laws, so that if a body votes to close a meeting, you can ask for the reason and cite a legal reason or note that the reason did not meet your laws. Work sources to learn what happens at secret meetings.

Trials. Know whether your jurisdiction allows computers and/or phones to provide live coverage. If that decision is left to the judge, ask a judge early enough that you can plan your coverage (or challenge a ruling).

Press conferences. Journalists generally prefer their own interviews to press conferences, but newsmakers sometimes prefer them as efficient ways to deal with the press. If you can get a private interview, don't ask questions at a press conference if you'd prefer to have the answers exclusively. But if the press conference is your only shot to get a question answered, take it.

Sporting events. The —game story¹¹ is undergoing some evolution as live coverage and post-game enterprise grow in importance. In a game story, outcome and importance are more important than play-by-play, even if notes or live coverage unfold in play-by-play style. What's the big thing that happened in this game? That should be the focus of your coverage.

Concerts or festivals. If you're covering a concert or festival, be clear with your editor or news director whether you're covering a news event or providing an entertainment review. In either case, consider the relative importance of the performance and audience reaction. If the audience loved something that you thought was lacking, you should at least consider mentioning the audience reaction along with your criticism.

Debates. Don't let post-debate —spin¹² override your reporting of what actually happened. No one knows immediately after a debate who —won,¹³ but everyone claims victory, so the spin should be secondary to reporting what the candidates actually did and said.

Conferences, etc. In covering events such as speeches, conferences, conventions and symposia, you need to consider your audience and the relative

newsworthiness of different mini-events within bigger events. Should you cover the whole event or are you just covering one speaker or panel? If you can't attend simultaneous events, you can catch up with one you miss by following social media, interviewing a speaker or interviewing people who did attend.

Funerals. Journalists covering funerals need to show sensitivity to the mourners.

WIRE SERVICE

- A news agency that supplies syndicated news by wire to newspapers, radio, and television stations.
- **An organization that supplies news to newspapers, radio, and television stations, etc. using an electrical communication system.**
- A **news** agency is an organization that gathers **news** reports and sells them to subscribing **news** organizations, such as newspapers, magazines and radio and television broadcasters. A **news** agency may also be referred to as a **wire service**, newswire, or **newsservice**

Wire services provide news reports to media outlets, and are also called **news agencies**, **news cooperatives**, and **news services**.

Wire services prepare hard-news articles, features, and other material to be used by media outlets, with little or no editing needed. Some wire services also send photos, infographics and broadcast reports.

The service charges for to access their material. Some also charge for separate items. The form of the wire service is not uniform. Corporate models may simply sell their service while cooperatives of news outlets share their articles with other members. Press release wire services charge creators of content to distribute their news. Government-operated, nonprofit, and alternative media networks are other forms of wire services.

International wire services:

- ✓ Agence France-Presse
- ✓ All Headline News(AHN)
- ✓ ANP (TheNetherlands)
- ✓ ANSA(Italy)
- ✓ Associated Press(USA)
- ✓ Australian AssociatedPress
- ✓ BASA-press (Republic ofMoldova)

- ✓ British Broadcasting Corporation,
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/> and <http://www.bbcworld.com/>
- ✓ Bloomberg L.P., Web site, USA
- ✓ Canadian Press, Website
- ✓ Canadian University Press, Website
- ✓ China News Service (China)
- ✓ City News Bureau of Chicago
- ✓ Cox Enterprises
- ✓ DPA (Germany)
- ✓ EFE
- ✓ EIN News
- ✓ Independent Television News
- ✓ Israel News Agency (Israel)
- ✓ ITIM (Israel)
- ✓ ITAR-TASS (Russia)
- ✓ Kyodo News (Japan)
- ✓ Nippon News (Japan)
- ✓ OANA

Some major newspapers or newspaper chains also operate wire services

ABSTRACTING

Writing a decent abstract is not difficult—if you know what information needs to be included and how to structure it. Essentially, an abstract should reflect all the parts of research paper, but in shortened form. In other words, a person reading only abstract should be able to understand why researcher has conducted the study, how it conducted, what are the major findings, and why the work is important.

Following four-part structure will serve as a basic guideline for preparing abstract. If you follow this formula, your abstract will be well organized and will contain all the essential elements.

1. What problem did researcher study and why is it important? Here, you want to provide some background of the study, the motivation behind the study, and/or the specific question researcher addressed. You may be able to set the stage with only one or two sentences.

2. **What methods did researcher use to study the problem?** Next, you want to give an overview of methods. Was it a field study or a laboratory experiment? What experimental treatments were applied?

3. **What were key findings?** When describing results, strive to focus on the main finding(s) and list no more than two or three points. Also, avoid ambiguous or imprecise wording.

4. **What did researcher conclude based on the findings and what are the broader implications?** What is new or innovative about the findings? How do findings affect the field of study? Are there any applications?

Writing good abstracts is not an art, but a learned skill. Developing such a skill takes practice.