

Chapter 3 Journalism Today

Newswriting Style

- Newswriting style lets journalists present factual information succinctly and in an impartial or objective manner
- A basic principle of journalism is the separation of fact and opinion and being fair and balanced in reporting multiple viewpoints.
- The first step to a well-written news story is planning and preparation

Prewriting: Identifying the Central Point

- Writing requires preparation and organization
- The best way to organize a story is to write a central point and a brief outline
- Central point - A one- or two-sentence summary of what the story is about and why it is newsworthy. It is a statement of the topic - and more

Story Outlines

- Writers always review their notes and other materials they have gathered before they start writing
- Reviewing assures reporters they have identified the most newsworthy central point and have the information they need to develop it.
- The central point and the brief outline of the major sections form the skeleton of the story

Simplify Words, Sentences and Paragraphs

- To simplify stories, avoid long, unfamiliar words
- Use short sentences and short paragraphs
- One way to keep sentences short, clear and conversational is to use the normal word order: subject, verb and direct object
- Paragraphs should combine only related ideas

Eliminate Unnecessary Words

- Newswriters eliminate unnecessary words yet retain enough detail to make their stories informative.
- Be especially careful to avoid phrases and sentences that are redundant

Remain Objective

- Reporters should be neutral observers, not advocates or participants

Avoid Stereotypical "-isms"

- Stereotyping --> When a news writer uses offensive, condescending or patronizing terms or phrases in describing other individuals
- The "-isms"
 - Racism
 - Sexism
 - Ageism