

Journalism style and how to write like a journalist

1. What is the journalism style?

It is a style of writing used by any journalist in order to report news stories in newspapers, magazines, tv broadcasts, radio or internet. Unlike other styles of writing, which can be flexible and casual, the journalistic writing are **easy to detect** and **brief**. For example, if you opened a book to a chapter and place it next to a newspaper article, you will probably notice the difference; in the newspaper the sentences and the paragraphs are short, so you will quickly get to the point. In addition, news stories have a particular characteristics; the big bold **headline** (the title) to attract the readers' attention.

2. Journalistic writing elements :

Journalists are taught how to write news, which means writing to get to the important information as quickly as possible.

And the best news writing involves the simplest words and the most basic of sentence constructions. You would be surprised at how much difficulty some writers get into in trying to perfect this straightforward formula

While journalists in different organizations around the world may tweak the formula here and there, news writing, involves for elements:

- **Angle :**

A news story without an angle is like pizza without cheese. Try biting into a pizza minus the cheese and all you get is ...a sandwich. When you learn how to write like a journalist the first thing you should be taught is how to identify angles, which in effect is your topic and is the reason you are writing an article in the first place.

- **Introduction**

Often called intro or lead, this is your first one or two paragraphs of your news story. While an angle defines what you are going to write, your intro is actually going ahead and putting it into words. Intros employ the who, what, when, where, why and how concept in order to get your story out quickly.

- **Quote**

Almost all news stories have some sort of quote. A quote humanizes the story and also provides it with authority. The best kinds of quotes support what you write in your intro. Quotes should have the full name and title of the person being quoted. Less ideal is "reliable source" or "spokesperson" but sometimes it is unavoidable. News articles can be written without a quote but this is not ideal

- **Attribution**

Following on from quotes, you should do your best to make sure events are attributed to somebody, especially if you were not at the scene. In court reporting, this is of utmost importance, which is why in these types of stories you may see phrases such as “the court was told”, “he told the court” and “the court heard”.

Conclusion:

News writing is not like informational articles. In a news story, you solve the problem as soon as possible. “How to” articles may identify problems and then offer a solution. In news writing, however, you do not have time for this