



TV NEWS WRITING

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CHECKLIST FOR NEWS STORIES

- ✓ Are the most important and recent facts first?
- ✓ Is the story accurate? Are the sources identified fully?
- ✓ Are the paragraphs short?
- ✓ Is the sentence structure varied in the story?
- ✓ Is the story neat and double-spaced so that it is easy to read?
- ✓ Does your story flow? Did you use the transition/quote formula?
- ✓ Did you use active voice?

PITFALLS TO AVOID

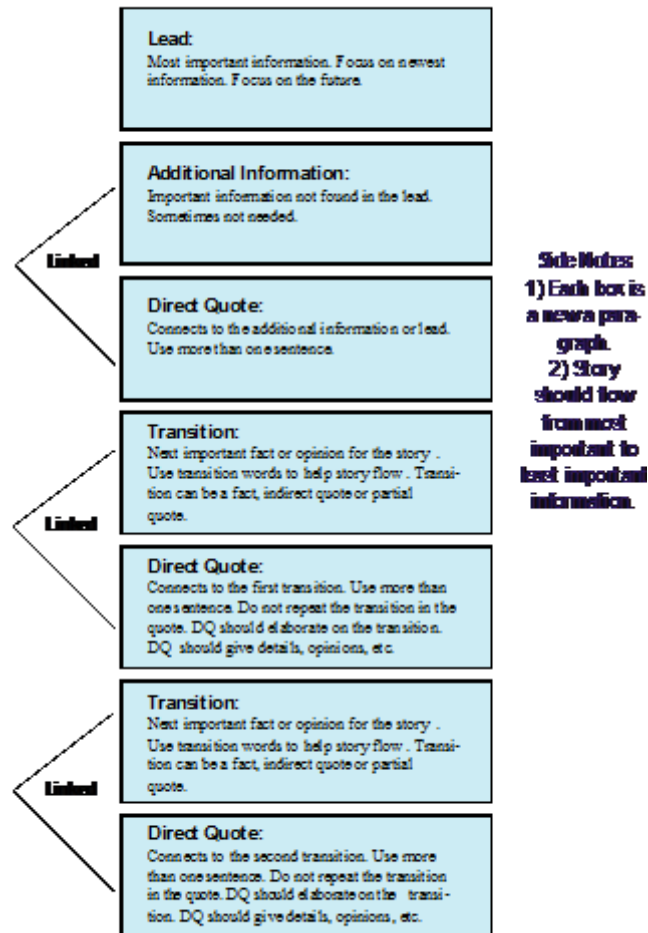
- Editorializing - Keep your opinion out of the story
- Using first and second person - Keep yourself out of the story. Common error “our school”
- Messy handwriting, poor grammar and spelling
- Paragraphs too long
- Misspelling names in the story
- Trying to use all of the information

DIFFERENT KINDS OF WRITING:

- □ Different kinds of writing:
- □ News writing
- □ Feature writing
- □ Investigate reports
- □ Current news
- □ Human interest stories
- □ Subediting

REMEMBER:

Transition/Quote Formula



and so on... until the story is complete

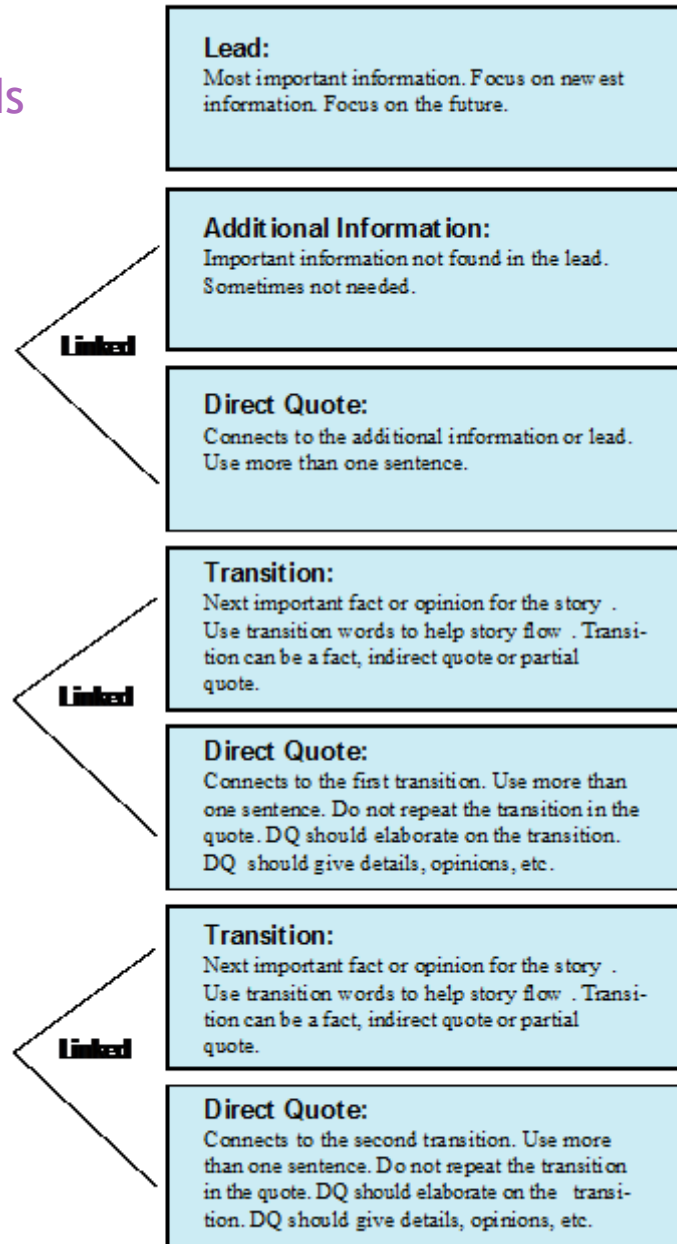
Let's Review ...

What types of leads should you use more?

Where should you place the attribution for a direct quote?

How many sentences can a direct quote be?

Transition/Quote Formula



and so on... until the story is complete

Following a transition, what should a direct quote do?

Side Notes
1) Each box is a new a paragraph
2) Story should flow from most important to least important information.

What can a transition be?

What is the purpose of the transition?



WHAT IS A SCRIPT?

- To produce a really well-rounded news story for television you need to write a script.
- ◉ You'll need to bring together all the elements you've gathered in the process of your research. You might have facts, figures and interviews. For radio you'll have sounds and for TV you'll have shot lots of images.
- ◉ Once it's written you can record the script and then edit the news story together.

TELLING WHAT?

- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why
- How
- So what?

WHAT IS A SCRIPT?

- A script often starts with a lead-in. (The British call this a cue.) This is what the news anchor reads to introduce the reporter who'll go on to tell the whole story.
- ◉ The lead-in must include the most attention-grabbing facts, so keep it short and use simple words that everyone will understand.
- ◉ Entice people to watch your report

STRUCTURE OF A SCRIPT

- ◉ We always try to start our radio reports with some interesting sounds and television reports with the best pictures, it helps make sure people want to keep watching or listening.
- ◉ You need to write your script leaving gaps for short clips of your interviewees. So, listen through to your interviews and choose the best bits. Keep the clips nice and short - about 10 seconds.
- ◉ The idea is to write a few short sentences followed by an audio or visual clip which highlights a particular point or argument. Then write a few more sentences followed by a clip of the opposing view. This way, you end up with a balanced report.
- ◉ You might also want to include a clip of someone who can highlight the issue you're talking about or who has direct experience of the issue.

NEWS FORMATS

- ◉ Reader
- ◉ VO
- ◉ Reader
- ◉ Actuality
- ◉ Voicer
- ◉ Scener

WRITING TO SOUND/PICTURES

- ◉ Always think about the sounds or pictures which will make your report come alive.
- ◉ Many of your pictures will do the storytelling for you, so you don't need to state the obvious.
- ◉ However with radio scripts you need to be much more descriptive as people can't see what you're talking about. ('wild sound')

FINAL TIPS

- ⦿ Read your story out loud when you're done. It's also always a good idea to get your scripts checked by someone else as a next step.
- ⦿ Be careful what you write; make sure you're not writing something about someone that is untrue or as a journalist you could end up facing legal action.
- ⦿ And if you're including anyone under the age of 18 in your report, just use their first names to help protect their privacy.

FINAL TIPS

- ⦿ Keep stories short: Don't make your scripts too long. People will switch off after a while. It's better to have 2 mins 30 secs of engaging radio or television than 15 minutes of boredom.
- ⦿ In general we read our scripts at a rate of three words per second, so you can easily calculate how long your reports will be.



THANK
YOU