

ANG-5106-2 Current Events

Project five

Reporters' Beats



Every professional journalist generally works on a specific subject: local news, politics, crime, science, etc... This special field is often referred to as a 'beat'. In some cases, they choose a specific field of journalism because they have a great interest in it and know a lot about it. Sometimes, however, the editor or news director needs to fill a spot in a particular 'beat' and simply assigns a young reporter to that task. In either case, the journalist must learn the vocabulary, expressions and strategies used when reporting on this subject.

For this project, you can begin by asking yourself which 'beat' you would most like to read about and report on. If you would like to focus on sports, then you should go instead to project seven which deals specifically with that field.



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TASK 1: Read examples of online news reports or blogs (and/or watch news podcasts) in a specific field- e.g. *politics, crime, arts and culture, science, the environment, education, etc...* In journalism this is called a '*beat*' (*She works on the crime beat, He's responsible for the arts beat...*) With a partner (or your teacher), identify the recurring elements - structure, functional language, vocabulary and expressions - for the particular field of journalism that you selected, and make a list of these elements.







If you like, you may consult these sites to find your articles:

<p>CBC news: http://www.cbc.ca/news</p> 	<p>Toronto Star: https://www.thestar.com/</p> 
<p>NPR: (American news site) https://www.npr.org/sections/news/</p> 	<p>BBC: (British news site) http://www.bbc.com/news</p> 
<p>New York Times : https://www.nytimes.com/</p> 	
<p>Alternative news sites: https://eluxemagazine.com/magazine/honest-news-sites/</p> 	<p>Reuters: (neutral international news site) https://www.reuters.com/</p> 
<p>Montreal Gazette : (Canadian newspaper) http://montrealgazette.com/</p> 	<p>National Post : (Canadian newspaper) http://nationalpost.com/</p> 
<p>The Washington Times : (US newspaper) https://www.washingtontimes.com/</p> 	<p>The New York Post: (US newspaper) https://nypost.com/news/</p> 

RUBRIC 1: OBSERVATIONS ON SPECIALIZED JOURNALISM ARTICLE

Journalistic field		
Title of article, tv report, blog (and blog post) etc...		
Subject		
Vocabulary, expressions and abbreviations specific to articles in this 'beat'		
Structure		
Other features or characteristics of the news report that seem particular to this field of journalism (ex. abbreviations or acronyms and their meanings- <i>Sgt.</i> for <i>sergeant</i>, <i>NRA</i> for <i>National Rifle Association</i>)		

TASK 2: Now consult websites that provide recommendations for the ‘beat’ that you selected. Use this information to complete as much of the rubric below as possible. Discuss your findings with a partner or your teacher.

POLITICS REPORTING	
https://www.thebalance.com/how-to-write-news-stories-about-politics-2315296 	https://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/me/mef/mef04/mef040c/mef04b 
https://problogger.com/7-tips-for-writing-about-politics-%E2%80%A6when-youre-not-a-political-writer/ 	https://www.quora.com/How-do-I-write-a-political-article 
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/school_report/5306872.stm 	
CRIME REPORTING	
https://penandthepad.com/write-crime-article-2337415.html 	https://www.thebalance.com/top-tips-for-reporting-crime-news-from-the-scene-2315165 

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTING

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arts_journalism



<https://www.thebalance.com/hard-news-how-does-it-differ-from-other-types-2316022>



<https://www.culturepartnership.eu/en/publishing/cultural-journalism-course/lecture-13-1>



<https://www.culturepartnership.eu/en/publishing/cultural-journalism-course/lecture-13-1>



SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

<https://www.thoughtco.com/writing-a-environmental-issue-paper-1203653>



<https://www.theguardian.com/science/series/secrets-science-writing>



<https://www.environmentalscience.org/career/environmental-writer>



RUBRIC 2: *SPECIALIZED JOURNALISM RECOMMENDATIONS*

Specialized journalism field ('beat')	
General recommendations	
Priorities (focus)	
Structure	
Additional details	

In the second and third projects we have covered four verb tenses that can be used to describe past events. One more verb tense that can be very useful to journalists is the past perfect:






Past Perfect

In a scene from the past, referring back to a time in the more distant past

Last year, the suspect worked at a bank. He had already worked as a security guard before that...

TASK 3: Using as many elements as possible from your observations in the first two rubrics, prepare a news report (print or audio/video) on a real or fictional event in a specialized field. You may use the rubric below to take notes in preparation for your report. Note: do not copy word-for-word from another news article – this is plagiarism!

Before beginning to plan your article, consult one of these websites to learn vocabulary and expressions that could be useful in your chosen field of journalism:

POLITICS	
https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/1487150 	https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/vocabulary-political-words/ 
https://www.myenglishteacher.eu/blog/12-political-terms-every-english-language-learner-should-know-infographic/ 	
CRIME	
https://www.ecenglish.com/learnenglish/lessons/crime-vocabulary 	https://www.englishclub.com/english-for-work/police-vocabulary.htm 

ARTS AND CULTURE:

http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/vocabulary-lesson-art.php



<http://www.dcielts.com/ielts-vocabulary/art-vocabulary-and-exercises/>



<https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/277003>



<http://www.english-for-students.com/Theater.html>



SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

<https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/331537>



<https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/words/environment.htm>



http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/vocabulary-lesson-science.php



RUBRIC 3: PREPARATORY NOTES FOR MY SPECIALIZED JOURNALISM ARTICLE

Specialized field	
Title of report	
Subject (event)	
Introduction	
Main points (four minimum) Quotes (one minimum, if possible)	
Conclusion	