

# ANG-5106-2 Current Events

## Project one

### Hard vs. soft news



In the news, some stories are about events that are happening today (a plane crash, the revelation of a scandal, a major sports trade, etc...), while others describe the development of people or situations over a number of years (how a famous entrepreneur started and expanded his/her business, for example). The news reports that you read in the newspaper or online, that you watch on television or listen to on the radio, can be divided into two main categories - *hard* and *soft*.

**TASK 1:** Read the following article, which explains the difference between the two. Then take notes in the graphic organizer below to prepare for a dialogue with your teacher (or partner).

### 'Hard' vs. 'soft' news

BY RACHEL DEAHL  
Updated October 13, 2017

Hard news is the kind of fast-paced news that usually appears on the front page of newspapers.

Up-to-the-minute news and events that require immediate reporting are considered hard while features and news that is considered background information or human-interest are thought of as soft news. Subject matter that is usually considered hard news includes: Politics, war, economics, and crime. On the flip side, the arts, entertainment and lifestyle stories are considered to be soft news in nature.

#### Blurring of Lines

What defines hard news isn't always about the subject matter. Some might call a news story hard news because it is heavily reported — even though it is a subject matter considered softer (like entertainment). It is possible to see news features that may be considered both hard and soft, such as a story about the business dealings and private life of a successful media mogul (leaving some to wonder if it is business or a



lifestyle story) or major style or renovation trends affecting the sale and cost of homes in a booming housing market (again, a blend of lifestyle and business).

The major difference between hard and soft news is the tone in which the story is presented. Hard news usually takes on a factual approach that explains what happened, who the main people involved were and where and when everything happened and why.

Soft news stories can be presented in a variety of ways, but they usually try to entertain or advise the reader in some way.

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

Two types of news:	Hard	Soft
Brief definition:		
Examples:		
Other details:		
Type which you prefer. Why?		



**TASK 2:** Choose three important events reported in the news in recent weeks: one local, one national and one international. Read at least one article (and/or listen to a radio or t.v. report) about each one. Choose at least one example of hard and soft news.

You may choose reports from among the following news sources (or any other legitimate news sites):

LOCAL	
<p><b>CBC Montreal</b>  <a href="http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal">http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal</a></p> 	<p><b>CTV Montreal</b>  <a href="https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/mobile/">https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/mobile/</a></p> 
<p><b>Montreal Gazette</b>  <a href="http://montrealgazette.com/category/news/local-news">http://montrealgazette.com/category/news/local-news</a></p> 	
NATIONAL	
<p><b>CBC</b>  <a href="http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada">http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada</a></p> 	<p><b>CTV</b>  <a href="https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada">https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada</a></p> 
<p><b>Global News</b>  <a href="https://globalnews.ca/canada/">https://globalnews.ca/canada/</a></p> 	<p><b>Toronto Star</b>  <a href="https://www.thestar.com/news/canada.html">https://www.thestar.com/news/canada.html</a></p> 
<p><b>Toronto Globe and Mail</b>  <a href="https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/">https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/</a></p> 	



**INTERNATIONAL**

BBC <a href="http://www.bbc.com/news/world">http://www.bbc.com/news/world</a>	NPR <a href="https://www.npr.org/sections/world/">https://www.npr.org/sections/world/</a>
	
CBC <a href="http://www.cbc.ca/news/world">http://www.cbc.ca/news/world</a>	
	

Take notes in a rubric about each news story

Type of news story	Local	National	International
<b>Title and news source</b>			
<b>Subject of story</b>			
<b>Type of news (hard or soft). Justify, based on Rachel Deahl article.</b>			
<b>Main people involved</b>			



Type of news story	Local	National	International
Brief summary of event			
Initial situation (background)			
Setting (Location and time)			
Main chronological elements of event			
Personal reaction to the event			





