

NEWSCAST ASSIGNMENT

Broadcast News

Spring 2008

Assignment: Write a two minute newscast. Due: Friday, April 4

You are to write a two minute newscast. This will be written from five stories in your book on pages 131-132. There are six stories on those pages but only use five in your newscast. Give serious thought to which story you will not report. Some stories are local (i.e. Midcity) while others are not. Review pages 47-50 in your book which cover Newscast Organization.

You are the anchor of Midcity's KCTI radio's 6 p.m. newscast. As you review these stories, note when each story happened whether today, last night or yesterday. Try to update "yesterday" stories.

Begin your newscast by saying, "K-C-T-I news time is 6:00 o'clock. I'm (give your name). Making news today...."

Close the newscast by saying, "Reporting for K-C-T-I, Midcity's radio news leader, I'm (give your name). I'll be back with more news at 6:30."

Each story, including the brief open and close, must be on its own page. Do not have stories combined on the same pages. Follow proper scripting format for radio reader stories shown on page 58 in your textbook.

Line Up (or rundown):

Each of the five news stories should be approximately 20 seconds long	1:40-1:50
Opening	:05
Closing	:05
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Total Time:	2:00

You do not need to record this newscast. This is a writing and news story organization exercise. You will write and record a newscast for a letter grade in the weeks ahead.

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You will lose points if your actual recording length is less than 1:50 or longer than 2:05. Prepare your scripts in order to deliver your newscast “live” from our classroom. Arrange the stories based on the newscast ordering information in your book and that we have discussed in class.

Newscast Delivery Tips:

- Pause between stories so it is clear when one story ends and the next one begins.
- Also use your voice to indicate when a story is ending by lowering your voice during the last few words, then, after a brief pause, raising your voice as the next story begins.
- Speak at a comfortable, conversational pace—not too fast or too slow.
- Remember, you are speaking to people during a newscast. You are telling and/or explaining to them the news of the day, things that should be of interest and/or importance. A sense of urgency or immediacy in your voice can help convey the importance of what you are reporting.
- Be aware of your voice tone during different types of stories. You should have a serious, even somber tone, during a tragedy story for example, and a lighter, more upbeat tone while reporting a humorous story, or, say, sports or weather. In other words, don’t sound the same during all of the stories in your newscast.
- Try to use transitional or connective phrases to enhance the flow of the newscast such as, when appropriate: “In other school news today…” or “Also in Summerville…” See your book for other examples (pages 48-49).
- Practice until you are very comfortable and confident with your script. During a live newscast, there are no retakes. If you stumble, you can’t stop and start over, just keep going. You cannot stop and start over!!!
- A strong, confident beginning and closing are desirable.

You will receive a letter grade. Newscast will be graded according to: accuracy, scripting, story order, writing, delivery, and length.

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