



TV News Reporting

Human Interest/Feature Package Assignment

Due: Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. (our final exam time)

Please come to the Communication Department Media Lab

*****NOTE: All equipment must be returned on this date at this time. A complete inventory will be done after we view the packages*****

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES DEFINED: “Stories about other people are interesting and important to us. For this reason, stories that stir emotions become news, but in a different way from the stories that lead the newscast. Stories that focus on emotional elements and generally do not affect people’s lives in other ways are known as human interest stories.” (from page 17 your textbook)

Your task is to produce a human interest package. Your book on pages 17-18 describes this type of story in detail and gives a few examples. In class, you will be shown several examples of such stories.

These stories are often touching and evoke from the viewer this response: “Ahhhh, wasn’t that a nice story” or “Ohhh, that’s so neat...or sad...or cool...”

Look for interesting, unusual people with interesting, unusual talents, skills, or hobbies. Or maybe someone who has overcome tremendous obstacles in life or faces extraordinary challenges. You can also do a feature package about, say, a festival or event, historic site, museum exhibit...something that’s visually appealing that can be fun to videotape, report and produce.

You should have at least two soundbites from two different people in this story.

For either type of story, think of the visuals needed to tell the story, i.e. the video you would need to shoot as well as the people you would need to interview—the subject of the story and maybe some people who know him/her real well. Think about “natural sound” elements that can be included in your story, helping bring it to life and engage the viewer even more.

As you’ll see in our examples, a “human” interest story can be about an animal or perhaps about a place or a building with a compelling story to it.

The final product on tape should have an on-camera anchor lead to introduce the reporter’s story and finish with an on-camera anchor tag. Turn in a proper package script also. Total running time (TRT) is flexible, but should be at least 1:30. Post your report on You Tube. Turn in your script to me on the due date.

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