

**TV News Reporting
Spring 2008**



Study Guide for the Friday, February 29 Midterm Exam



Note: Parts 1 and 2 are to be turned in Wednesday, Feb. 27

1. Writing two television news split-page format scripts for the Hunan Haven restaurant story and the Biology Student story (see handout). Hunan Haven is a 30 second “reader” story and Biology Student is a 45 second “VO/SOT” story. Follow script sample guidelines. (five points each)
2. Type a one-to-two page libel analysis from the Columbia Journalism Review article, “From Simple Story to Major Mess.” In your paper (not to be written in TV split page), address the following issues: (five points)
 - Summarize the case and the main points of contention
 - How was Jesse Sheckler a victim in this case?
 - What was in the reporter’s story that became grounds for Sheckler’s libel lawsuit?
 - What must a plaintiff prove in a libel lawsuit?
 - Did Sheckler and his lawyer have a strong case based on what they had to prove, per libel law?
 - Where did the TV station go wrong?
 - Could the station’s management have handled things differently and perhaps have prevented the lawsuit?
 - What lessons can be learned from this “not-so-funny comedy of errors”?

PARTS OF THE TEST TO BE TAKEN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29:

3. Writing effective news leads—from a list of facts to a news story, write an effective broadcast news lead (remember keep leads concise—to around 12 words)
4. Multiple Choice Questions—taken from the book
5. Terms—be able to describe/define key terms pertaining to TV newsrooms, news reporting, editing, and legal/ethical considerations
6. “List Three”—you are asked to list three-- deals with key concepts in book
7. True/False—key concepts in book/terms
8. Rewriting sentences from print style to broadcast style

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OUTLINE OF MATERIAL YOU SHOULD KNOW FROM THE BOOK

Study the material below from Chapters 1-11 (except Chapter 10)

denotes possible list questions

Chapter 1, “All About News”

- Key Concept terms on page 25
- ***Review “What is Newsworthy” on pages 11-19. Understand and be able to list these factors that determine what is newsworthy: conflict, uniqueness, prominence, impact, relevance, location and human interest or emotional impact
- ***The Characteristics of a Good Reporter in the box on page 20
- ***Review the RTNDA Code of Ethics on pages 21-22—be able to list three to five key elements of the Code of Ethics

Chapter 2, “The Television Newsroom”

- Key Concept terms on page 42
- Review part on Sensationalism on pages 38-39

Chapter 3, “News Sources”

- Key Concept terms on page 75

Chapter 4, “Using Public Records”

- Key Concept terms on page 107

Chapter 5, “Storytelling and Writing for Broadcast”

- Key Concept terms on page 144
- ***The “Five W’s” of Journalism on page 111
- ***Soundbites—their four functions: credibility, emotion, opinion and adding variety to the story (p. 125)

Chapter 6, “Writing in Broadcast Style”

- Review broadcast news writing rules about numbers, ordinals, symbols, scores, times, dates, and abbreviations and acronyms on pages 166-168.
- Review web posting, “Summary of Key Differences Between Broadcast and Print News Writing”
- ***List of “C” words to strive for in effective news/feature lead writing (see end of the handout mentioned above)
- Review Rewrite Exercise: Print to Broadcast Style”

Chapter 7, “Shooting Video: Composing the Shot”

- Review the terms given in the handout that you did for homework. This list is shorter than the Key Concepts list at the end of this chapter.

Chapter 8, “Shooting Video: Deciding what to Shoot”

- Key Concept terms on page 255 (only need to know terms in first two columns)

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Chapter 9, “Editing”

- These terms only: analog, linear or tape-to-tape editing, nonlinear editing, shot sheet, logging the tape, establishing shot, file footage, video sequence, nat sound break, nat sound open, graphic, wallpaper, super

Chapter 11, “Legal Considerations”

- Key Concept terms on page 352
- ***Four things a plaintiff in a libel suit must prove (page 330-331)
- ***Three defenses reporters/news media have when facing libel charges (p. 334)
- ***Two media defenses against Invasion-of-Privacy lawsuits (p. 343-344)

Review Also the Following Postings on the Class Website (www.cofc.edu/~harwoodp)

- Sample Reader, VO/SOT (voice-over/sound-on-tape) and Package (PKG) scripts
- “Making Your Stand Ups Stand Out” posting
- Print to Broadcast Style Rewrite Exercise
- Summary of Key Differences Between Print and Broadcast News Writing posting

