

BROADCAST NEWS

WRITING, REPORTING,
AND PRODUCING

Fifth Edition



Ted White Frank Barnas

Broadcast News: Writing, Reporting, and Producing 5th Edition

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Writing, Reporting, and Producing
5th Edition**

Acknowledgments

As this is the fifth edition of this text, it is important to recognize that this is a continuation of Ted White's previous four editions. Ted authored the first four editions on his own, while I was honored to update this text after his passing. It is my hope that the flavor of his original writings lives on through this edition.

My deep appreciation goes out to those who supported this work, including my colleagues and students at Valdosta State University. It is only through practicing broadcast journalism that we can better learn the craft and I thank VSU for allowing me that opportunity. I'm also indebted to VSU's John Gaston, Carl Cates, Mike Savoie, Walter Rollenhagen, and Janet Wade for their support.

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Frank Barnas
Valdosta State University

Introduction

This fifth edition of *Broadcast News Writing, Reporting, and Producing* is structured to guide broadcast journalism students through every facet of their chosen field. Each chapter begins with *Key Words*, a list that notes the important terms and definitions that will appear in the following pages. The text of each chapter contains practical advice and tips from industry professionals about that chapter's subject matter. Finally, each chapter concludes with three segments: a *Summary*, which reviews the chapter's main points; a *Test Your Knowledge* section, which offers questions relevant to the chapter; and *Exercises*, which allows students to apply the chapter's themes with practical experience.

The text begins with an introductory chapter of *Ethical Considerations*, providing an overview of some of the challenges facing news reporters today. The book is then divided into the natural progression of how a newscast is assembled. Part 1, *Acquiring the News*, contains chapters that cover how to find the news, develop sources, and collect information from both real and virtual documents. The section concludes with a chapter on the different types of stories and assignments that broadcast journalists will encounter.

Part 2 concentrates on *Writing the News*, the most fundamental skill a reporter must possess. In addition to detailing the mechanics of newswriting, there is in-depth analysis on both the style of newswriting and how a broadcast journalist can write effective leads.

Part 3, *Reporting the News*, expands from writing into merging video and audio into a news report. Topics in this part of the book include fieldwork, interviewing, covering planned events, and live reporting. The section ends with an in-depth look at the different types of story formats that appear on a typical newscast.

The final part of this text, *Producing the News*, examines how to assemble the day's stories into a comprehensive newscast. Chapters deal with producing for both television and radio. For those who would like to deliver the news as reporters or anchors, a chapter on delivering the news provides on-air talent with professional advice on how to communicate with the audience

effectively. Chapters on Global/Network News and Convergence address how globalization and Internet technology are reshaping how news is delivered.

Although the text is designed to be used linearly, journalism instructors and students may use the chapters in whatever order works best for their individual programs. Finally, a sample syllabus and instructors' notes are available through the Focal Press textbook Web site.

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