

Second Edition

News Reporting and Writing



**The Missouri
Group:**

**Brian S. Brooks
George Kennedy
Daryl R. Moen
Don Ranly**

SECOND EDITION

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School of Journalism
University of Missouri at Columbia

St. Martin's Press New York

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 83-61604
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For information, write St. Martin's Press, Inc.,
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

cover design: Darby Downey
cover photo: Woodfin Camp & Associates

ISBN: 0-312-57205-0

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Preface

Like the first edition of *News Reporting and Writing*, this revised and expanded second edition is intended to be, above all, useful.

It begins at the beginning, explaining what news is and why accuracy and fairness are essential in reporting and writing. The section that teaches the basic techniques for news gathering and writing includes an expanded chapter on the most common reporting technique—interviewing—and a new discussion on the newest technique—searching computer data bases.

After presenting the basics, the book shows students how to handle increasingly complex stories, how to write those stories effectively and how to move into specialized reporting. The chapter on business and consumer reporting has been expanded in recognition of the increasing importance of that specialty. The concluding chapters cover law and ethics. The law chapter contains most recent important cases. The expanded ethics chapter provides a sound framework and suggests approaches to solving journalism's toughest and most common ethical problems.

The second edition reflects the thorough testing the book has received during five years of use in basic and advanced reporting classes at the University of Missouri School of Journalism and in more than 300 other schools and departments. Also as a result of that experience, we have written a separate workbook to provide more and better exercises.

We think that this second edition, even more than the first, is helpfully organized, clearly written and complete. We have continued our stress on good writing, both in the content of the book and in its style. We have followed the wire service style used by nearly all newspapers. The updated appendix includes the most commonly used sections of the wire service stylebooks.

We want to thank our colleague Dale Spencer, a journalist and lawyer, who revised his chapter on law, and James K. Gentry, director of Missouri's business journalism program, who revised the chapter on business and consumer reporting. We are grateful, too, to our many colleagues across the country who provided us with helpful comments and suggestions for this second edition: Anantha Babbili, Texas Christian University; Gail Barwis, Marquette University; Thomas Beell, Iowa State University; Peter Benjaminson, SUNY—Binghamton; Richard Bergeman, Linn-Benton Community College; James M. Bernstein, Michigan State University; Shirley Biagi, California State University—Sacramento; Michael Bugeja, Oklahoma State University; Rosalie Carroll, University of Arizona; Paula A. Cashdollar, Community College of Rhode Island; Lawrence Clancy, Russell Sage Junior College of Albany; Patrick Connolly, Rock Valley College; Walter G. Cowan, University of New Orleans; Diana D'India, Framingham State College; John C. Donahue, Purdue University; Glenn C. Doty, SUNY—New Paltz; John Dunn, University of Michigan—Ann Arbor; Jerry W. Elam, Broward Community College; C. A. Fleming, Oklahoma State University; E. Fraas, Western Kentucky University; Jerome Greenfield, SUNY—New Paltz; Max K. Hall, Broward Community College; Susan Harrigan, SUNY—Binghamton; Mary Hires, County College of Morris; Beatrice Hirschl, Duquesne University; Sharon Hoover, Alfred University; William E. Huntzicker, University of Wisconsin—River Falls; Arnold H. Ismach, University of Minnesota—Minneapolis; DeWayne B. Johnson, California State University—Northridge; James Joseph, Troy State University; L. D. Kennedy, Campbellsville College; Stephen K. Koski, Mary of the Plains College; Paul Krakowski, Duquesne University; Kim Landon, Utica College; Tahree Lane, University of Michigan—Ann Arbor; Jae-Won Lee, Cleveland State University; John Luter, University of Hawaii; Sue Maloney, Duquesne University; Merlin R. Mann, Abilene Christian University; Raleigh Mann, University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill; Mary Marcus, East Texas State University; Lois Matthews, Eastern Michigan University; W. M. Mecklenburg, Duquesne University; David Merves, Broward Community College; James McKinley, University of Missouri—Kansas City; David C. Nelson, Purdue University; Hank Nower, Clemson University; Rosemary Parker, Michigan State University; Elise Parsigian, University of Michigan—Ann Arbor; Jon Ramsey, Skidmore College; William J. Roach, University of Northern Florida; James R. Ross, University of Pittsburgh; Jon Sacks, Broward Community College; Michael Salwen, Michigan State University; Herman Scheiding, Foothill College; Lawrence Schneider, California State University—Northridge; George J. Searles, Mohawk Valley Community College; Kathleen Burton Shores, Pepperdine

University; Diane Silver, Michigan State University; Sarah Snyder, University of Michigan—Ann Arbor; Stanley Soffin, Michigan State University; Harlan S. Stensaas, Oral Roberts University; Susan Stock, Union County College; Stephen Turner, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Larry K. Uffelman, Mansfield State College; Kenneth G. Vance, Indiana State University—Evansville; John B. Webster, Purdue University; Jean Gaddy Wilson, Missouri Valley College; Eleanor S. Wright, Eastern Michigan University; and Ernest Wyatt, Georgia Southern College. We thank our students—past and present—whose work we’ve drawn on to illustrate the principles of the book and from whom we’ve learned. Our wives, Anne, Robin, Nancy and Joan, have been full partners in this project.

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
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Contents

Preface v

PART ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEWS 1

1 THE NATURE OF NEWS 3

Traditional Criteria of News Value 4

- Audience 5
- Impact 6
- Proximity 10
- Timeliness 10
- Prominence 12
- Unusualness 13
- Conflict 15

Changing Standards of News Value 16

Changing Sources of News 18

Accuracy and Fairness 19

Suggested Readings 22

2 INSIDE THE NEWS ROOM 23

Newspaper Organization 25

- Top Management 26
- The Editorial Department 27
- Other Departments 30

Copy Flow 33

Copy Preparation 36

- The Traditional Process 38
- The VDT Process 41

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Tools to Help You | 45 |
| Suggested Readings | 47 |

PART TWO BASIC SKILLS 49

3 USING A STYLEBOOK 51

| | |
|---|-----------|
| The Origin and Usefulness of Style Rules | 52 |
| Common Style Errors | 54 |
| Capitalization | 54 |
| Abbreviations | 56 |
| Punctuation | 59 |
| Numerals | 62 |
| Suggested Readings | 62 |

4 THE INVERTED PYRAMID 64

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| How to Write Leads | 68 |
| Writing the Lead | 69 |
| Alternate Leads | 72 |
| <i>Immediate-Identification Leads</i> | 73 |
| <i>Delayed-Identification Leads</i> | 73 |
| <i>Summary Leads</i> | 75 |
| <i>Multiple-Elements Leads</i> | 75 |
| <i>Leads With a Twist</i> | 76 |
| Story Organization | 77 |
| One-Subject Stories | 78 |
| Multiple-Elements Stories | 79 |

5 INTERVIEWING 82

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Preparing for the Interview | 83 |
| Consideration of Story Type | 84 |
| <i>The News Story</i> | 85 |
| <i>The Profile</i> | 86 |
| <i>The Investigative Piece</i> | 87 |
| Other Preparatory Considerations | 88 |
| Phrasing the Question | 89 |
| Open-Ended Questions | 90 |
| Closed-Ended Questions | 90 |
| Establishing a Rapport | 91 |
| Interview Approaches | 92 |
| Other Practical Considerations | 94 |
| Techniques for Ensuring Accuracy | 95 |
| Observing | 95 |
| Understanding | 96 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Asking Follow-Up Questions | 97 |
| Other Techniques | 97 |
| Suggested Readings | 98 |

6 QUOTES AND ATTRIBUTION 99

| | |
|---|------------|
| What to Quote Directly | 100 |
| Unique Material | 100 |
| The Unique Expression | 101 |
| <i>Capturing Dialect or Accent</i> | 102 |
| Important Quotes by Important People | 103 |
| <i>Verification</i> | 103 |
| Problems in Direct Quotation | 104 |
| Paraphrasing Quotes | 104 |
| Partial Quotes | 105 |
| Correcting Quotes | 105 |
| Obscenity | 106 |
| Attributing Direct and Indirect Quotes | 106 |
| Handling Both On- and Off-the-Record Information | 110 |
| Using a Source Who Does Not Wish to be Named | 110 |
| Guidelines for Citing Sources | 111 |
| Suggested Readings | 114 |

PART THREE BASIC STORIES 117

7 SOURCES AND SEARCHES 119

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Finding the Story | 120 |
| Checking the Facts | 122 |
| Data-Base Searches | 124 |
| Sampling of Available Material | 125 |
| Example of a Search | 127 |
| Major Data-Base Vendors | 129 |

8 PRESS RELEASES 130

| | |
|---|------------|
| Types of Press Releases | 131 |
| Announcements | 131 |
| Cause-Promoting Releases | 132 |
| Image-Building Releases | 133 |
| Handling the Press Release | 134 |
| Rewriting the Announcement Release | 135 |
| Rewriting the Cause Release | 137 |
| Rewriting the Image-Building Release | 138 |
| <i>Rewriting an Organization's Image-Building Release</i> | 139 |
| Suggested Readings | 144 |

9 OBITUARIES 145

Basic Obituary Information and Style 147

- Crafting a Lead 147
- Building the Story Body 148
- Choosing Your Words 149

Sources of Information 150

- Mortuary Forms 150
- The Newspaper Library 151
- Interviewing Family and Friends 153

Newspaper Policy 154

- Cause of Death 154
- Embarrassing Information 155
- Policy Options 156

Suggested Readings 157

10 SPEECHES, NEWS CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS 158

Preparation 159

- Preparing for the Speech Story 160
- Preparing for the News Conference Story 161
- Preparing for the Meeting Story 161

Covering Speeches, Meetings and News Conferences 162

- Getting the Content Correct 163
- Describing the Participants 164
- Covering the Event 165
- Arriving, Positioning Yourself and Staying On 166

Structuring and Writing Your Story 168

- Writing the Speech Story 168
- Writing the News Conference Story 171
- Writing the Meeting Story 172

Suggested Readings 173

11 ACCIDENTS, FIRES AND DISASTERS 174

Covering the Scene 176

- The Scene of an Accident 176
- The Scene of a Fire 179
- The Scene of a Disaster 181

Completing the Reporting 183

- Follow-Up Stories 184
- The Story of a Crash and Its Follow-Up 185

12 CRIME AND THE COURTS 190

Gathering and Writing Crime News 191

- Sources of Information 191

Police and Police Reports 192

The Victim 194

Witnesses 195

Other Possible Sources 196

Writing the Story 196

The Chronologically Ordered Story 196

The Inverted Pyramid Account 199

Court Organization and Procedure 201

Court Organization 201

Court Procedure 204

Pretrial Proceedings in Criminal Cases 204

Initial Appearance 204

The Trial 206

Writing Court Stories 208

Avoiding Libelous Statements 208

Continuing Coverage of the Prosecution 209

Taste and Responsibility 213

The Free Press–Fair Trial Controversy 214

Disputed Issues 217

Suggested Readings 219

13 FOLLOWS 220

Creating the Second-Cycle Story 221

Supplying Previously Unavailable Information 222

Uncovering New Information 223

Supplying Details, Color and Background 223

Responding With Analysis, Possible Developments
and Reactions 226

Gathering Local Reactions to a Non-Local Story 227

Writing the Developing Story 227

Following the Course of Events 228

Enterprise 230

Following and Affecting the Course of Events 230

Writing an Update 233

PART FOUR EFFECTIVE WRITING 237

14 THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD WRITING 239

Elements of Good Writing 242

Precision 244

Clarity 245

Simple Sentences 245

Grammatical Usage 246

Clear Thinking 247

Pacing 248
Transitions 250
Sensory Appeal 252

Using Analogies 254

Good Writing Begins with Good Reporting 255

Interviewing Participants 255
Digging for the Telling Detail 257

Suggested Readings 259

15 ALTERNATIVES TO THE INVERTED PYRAMID 260

The Focus Structure 261

Steps in Applying the Structure 264
The Transition 264
Exposition of the Larger Issue 267
The Finish 268

Variations of the Focus Structure 269

Scenic Leads 269
Anecdotal Leads 270

Extended Dialogue Stories 271

The Chronological Approach 274

First-Person Stories 277

Putting It Together 277

Suggested Readings 283

16 COVERING A BEAT 284

Principles for Reporters on a Beat 285

Be Prepared 286
Reading for Background 286
Talking to Sources 287
Be Alert 288
Be Persistent 290
Insisting on a Responsive Answer 290
Following Up Slow Developments 292

Be There 293

Be Wary 295
The Source Trap 296
Writing for Readers 297

Covering the Most Important Local Beats 298

City and County Government 300
The Schools 301
The Police Beat 303
The Courts 306
Court Records 307
Human Sources 308

Religion 309

Science, Medicine and the Environment 311

Making Sense of Budgets 313

Suggested Readings 317

17 BUSINESS AND CONSUMER NEWS 322

Preparing to Cover Business News 323

How to Report Business Stories 324

Where to Find Business News 327

Reports and Records 328

Human Sources 332

Announcements and Meetings 333

Reporter Enterprise 334

Consumer News 344

Where to Find Consumer News 346

Government Agencies 346

Quasi-Public Consumer Groups 347

Businesses 349

How to Report Consumer Stories 349

Suggested Readings 350

18 SPORTS 352

Covering the Sports Beat 353

Being Prepared 354

Being Alert and Persistent 354

Being There and Developing Contacts 357

Being Wary and Digging for the Real Story 358

Covering the Contests 361

Writing About Sports 365

Recognizing and Avoiding Sports Clichés 365

Effective Sports Writing 367

Suggested Readings 370

19 SOCIAL SCIENCE REPORTING TECHNIQUES 372

Participant Observation 373

Systematic Study of Records 375

Field Experiments 376

Basic Experimental Methods and Terminology 377

Public Opinion Polls 378

Requirements for Sound Polling 378

The Need for Caution in Interpreting Polls 380

Suggested Readings 381

PART FIVE SPECIALIZED REPORTING 385

20 INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING 387

The Process 389

Beginning an Investigation 389

Carrying Out the Investigation 390

An Example 391

Writing the Story 393

The Sources 396

Human Sources 396

Managing Human Sources 397

Written Sources 398

Public Records 399

Using and Securing Public Records 401

Non-Public Records 401

Problems with Written Sources 402

The Obstacles 403

Suggested Readings 404

21 BROADCAST NEWS 406

Criteria for Selecting Broadcast News 407

Timeliness 407

Information 408

Audio or Visual Impact 408

Writing Broadcast News 409

Characteristics of Broadcast Writing 409

Immediacy 409

Conversational Style 411

Tight Phrasing 412

Clarity 413

Story Structure 415

Writing the Broadcast Lead 415

Writing Lead-ins and Wrap-ups 417

Writing for Videotape 417

Preparing Broadcast Copy 418

Suggested Readings 425

PART SIX RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES 427

22 PRESS LAW 429

Your Rights 430

Libel Suit Defenses 431

| | |
|--|-----|
| <i>Truth</i> | 432 |
| <i>Privilege</i> | 433 |
| <i>Fair Comment and Criticism</i> | 433 |
| <i>The Actual Malice Test</i> | 434 |
| Standards Applicable to Public Figures | 435 |
| Standards Applicable to Private Citizens | 438 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Invasion of Privacy | 440 |
| Protection of Sources and Notes | 441 |
| Suggested Readings | 443 |

23 ETHICS 444

| | |
|--|------------|
| Three Ethical Philosophies | 445 |
| Absolutist Ethics | 446 |
| Antinomian Ethics | 446 |
| Situation Ethics | 447 |
| Ethical Problems | 449 |
| Payola | 450 |
| <i>Standards Within the Industry</i> | 451 |
| Conflict of Interest | 452 |
| <i>Some Questions</i> | 452 |
| <i>Some Answers</i> | 453 |
| Withholding Information | 455 |
| Deceit | 458 |
| <i>Generally Disapproved Practices</i> | 458 |
| <i>Debatable Practices</i> | 459 |
| <i>Lawbreaking Practices</i> | 460 |
| <i>The Rationale for Certain Kinds of Deceit</i> | 461 |
| Invasion of Privacy | 462 |
| Participation in the News | 464 |
| The Media Response | 465 |
| Suggested Readings | 468 |

APPENDIX: WIRE SERVICE STYLE 471

| | |
|---|------------|
| Capitalization | 471 |
| Abbreviations and Acronyms | 485 |
| Punctuation and Hyphenation | 491 |
| Numerals | 505 |
| Grammar, Spelling and Word Usage | 511 |

GLOSSARY 525

INDEX 537

PART ONE

Introduction to the News

