

Mastering the Fundamentals of News Writing – Teacher’s Manual

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NOTE: Click the hyperlink for the presentations

Session 1: What is News? Types of News

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze and articulate that fundamental elements that define news in your own words
- Critically evaluate and compare various type of news, identifying key distinctions among news samples

Materials Needed:

- Yellow meta cards
- Printed news articles
- Pen
- Laptop
- Television
- Speaker
- White cartolina

Activities:

1. **Introductory Video and Initial Understanding** (25 minutes)
 - **Activity:** Show a brief introductory video of a news program (both radio and TV).
 - **Instructions:**
 - Start by explaining the objective of the video.
 - Play the video.
 - Distribute yellow meta cards and ask students to write their initial understanding of what a news program does.
 - **Purpose:** To gauge students' preliminary understanding and set the stage for deeper exploration.
2. **Discussion and Definition Creation** (25 minutes)
 - **Activity:** Discuss the definition of news using a slide presentation.
 - **Instructions:**
 - Present the slide show defining what news is and is not.
 - Show images or video clips and ask students to identify whether they are news or not.
 - **Purpose:** To clarify the definition of news and correct misconceptions.

ANSWER KEY.

Article 1: NEWS

Tropical Storm "Ketsana," locally known as "Ondoy," swept across metro Manila and parts of Central Luzon on Saturday, September 26, 2009, and brought a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours. The

waters rose so fast that people living in low lying areas were caught unaware and had to stay on the roofs of their houses to avoid being swept away by the floods (Relief Web, 2009)

Article 2. NOT NEWS

Stargazing – the simple act of looking at the stars – is perhaps the ultimate social-distancing experience, a chance to reconnect with nature and the world without having to leave your yard, balcony, porch, or sidewalk. The night sky inspires such awe, and capturing that sense of awe has been found to turn us into better people. (F. Miller, 2020)

Article 3. NOT NEWS

My favourite hobby is watching TV. Whenever I have free time, I love watching Television. It never obstructs my studies. Hobbies help us to expand our knowledge, and it teaches us several things. First, I like to finish all my school homework and then start watching TV. This lightens my mood and sparks up the excitement inside me, as it increases my curiosity about the world (Vedantu, n.d.).

Article 4. NEWS

Filipina athletes share the spotlight when the 32nd Southeast Asian Games officially starts with its opening ceremony at the Morodok Techo National Stadium here on Friday, May 5, at 4 pm (5 pm, Manila time).

Volleyball star Alyssa Valdez will serve as the Philippines' flag bearer for the second SEA Games as she leads an all-Filipina cast for the parade of athletes (Rappler, 2023).

3. News Type Analysis (15 minutes)

- **Activity:** Analyze and categorize news articles.
- **Instructions:**
 - Distribute printed news articles representing different types of news.
 - Pair students and have them analyze the articles.
 - Each pair categorizes the article and provides reasons.
- **Purpose:** To practice identifying and categorizing different types of news.

ANSWER KEY.

1. In Barangay Capisaan in the upland town of Kasibu in Nueva Vizcaya, Alayan Pag-asa Abot-Palad Association of Women are trying to keep their Ifugao-Twali culture alive through weaving. They are among the pilot beneficiaries of the Loom Weaving Industry program of the Department of Trade Industry – Nueva Vizcaya (Region 2) in 2014. Among the women weavers' association's products is the famous Ifugao shawl crafted in a chain rib weave with embroidered seams. These shawls are worn in various ways including as a skirt or as a scarf. – **Cultural News**

2. MANILA — The Creamline Cool Smashers successfully clinched their eighth Premier Volleyball League (PVL) title. Creamline closed out the 2024 All-Filipino Conference on Mother's Day by defeating the Choco Mucho Flying Titans, 20-25, 25-20, 22-25, 25-22, 15-11 in Game 2 of their Finals series at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City. Leading the four-peat champions was Finals MVP Jema Galanza who finished with 20 points, all coming from attacks, but she deflected all the credit to her teammates. – **Sports News**

3. Apple's iPhone 15 lineup hit stores Friday as people waited in long lines across China, Europe and the US to be among the first to get their hands on one of the company's next-generation smartphones. Leading up to launch day, analysts at firms such as Wedbush Securities have reported iPhone 15 pre-

orders tracking much stronger than originally expected, with a heavy demand on its premium iPhone 15 Pro offerings, especially the Pro Max. Delivery and shipment times have moved to late October through mid-November for various Pro models. – **Business News / Technology News**

4. President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has banned all Philippine offshore gaming operators in the country. In his 3rd State of the Nation Address, Marcos said POGOs had ventured into illicit areas such as scamming, money laundering, prostitution, human trafficking, kidnapping, torture, and murder. "The grave abuse and disrespect to our system and laws must stop. Kailangan na itigil ang panggugulo nito sa ating lipunan at paglapastangan sa ating bansa," Marcos said in his 2024 State of the Nation Address. – **Hard News / Breaking News**

5. A new coffee shop that showcases locally-produced coffee was opened here on Thursday. The "Kapebaluan" is located on the ground floor of the City Library where one can enjoy reading a variety of books while sipping the city's own blend of organic coffee. Aside from coffee (kape), the shop serves other beverages which it calls non-coffee (alang kape), tea (pang marimla), signature (tatak), and barista. Cafe goers have 19 flavors of these drinks to choose from. – **Soft News / Feature News**

6. In today's editorial, we explore the urgent need for increased funding in Philippine public education. The most powerful weapon at the constitutional command of Congress is the budget. The natural response to national crises is to legislate more funds to address them. Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian has noted that the government deployed P100 billion for vaccines to deal with the pandemic, and believes that the education crisis demands a comparable commitment of resources. – **Editorial News**

7. The South Korean government is establishing a \$3-billion funding facility for the Philippines, as well as a P13-billion loan agreement for the construction of a new Dumaguete Airport. During the Kapihan sa Manila Bay forum yesterday, Finance Secretary Ralph Recto said he signed financing agreements with the Export-Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM) that would boost infrastructure projects in the country. These include the \$3-billion Economic Development Promotion Facility and the P13-billion Dumaguete Airport Development Project. – **Business News**

8. PAGASA has been continuously monitoring the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the tropical Pacific. The El Niño Advisory No. 9 was issued stating that El Nino started to weaken and may return to ENSO-neutral conditions during the April-May-June (AMJ) 2024 season. However, model forecasts suggest an increasing probability of La Niña to develop in the June-July-August (JJA) 2024 season. With this development, the PAGASA ENSO Alert and Warning System is now raised to La Niña Watch. – **Weather News**

4. Collaborative Definition Creation (25 minutes)

- **Activity:** Create a collaborative definition of news.
- **Instructions:**
 - Facilitate a discussion where students contribute key words.
 - Have students write their final definition on a white cartolina and post it on the board.
- **Purpose:** To synthesize individual understanding into a collective definition.

Session 2: Characteristics of News

Duration: 1 hour

Learning Objective:

- Describe the characteristics of a news story.

Materials Needed:

- News clips (video, radio)
- Pen
- Laptop
- Television

Activities:

1. **News Story Showcase and Lecture** (40 minutes)
 - **Activity:** Show various news samples and discuss their characteristics.
 - **Instructions:**
 - Play video, radio recording, and news clips.
 - Conduct a lecture explaining the characteristics of news using these samples.
 - **Purpose:** To provide a clear understanding of news characteristics.
2. **Quiz on News Characteristics** (20 minutes)
 - **Activity:** Complete a quiz on news characteristics.
 - **Instructions:**
 - Distribute a 5-item quiz with news leads.
 - Students identify characteristics and explain their relevance.
 - Review answers with the class.
 - **Purpose:** To assess understanding of news characteristics.

ANSWER KEY

Article 1: "Filipina weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz won the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, making history as the first Filipino athlete to achieve this honor in the prestigious athletic arena. Her victory brought immense pride to the Philippines and sparked celebrations across the country."

- **Characteristics:** Prominence, Human Interest, Relevance
- **Explanation:** Hidilyn Diaz is a prominent figure due to her Olympic victory, which has a significant impact on national pride.

Article 2: "Typhoon Carina, one of the strongest tropical storms recorded in the Philippines in 2024. The storm caused massive destruction in properties and road floods especially in the greater Metro Manila area. Relief efforts and government aid poured in to help the affected areas recover."

- **Characteristics:** Significance, Relevance, Currency
- **Explanation:** The typhoon's massive impact on lives and infrastructure makes it highly significant. The news is current as it discusses an ongoing recovery, and relevant due to the widespread effects and need for continued aid.

Article 3: "The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) election in Barangay Lipay saw a record turnout of young voters. The election was marked by lively campaigns, with candidates promising various community improvements. The newly elected officials vowed to focus on youth programs and local development."

- **Characteristics:** Proximity, Timeliness, Human Interest
- **Explanation:** The SK election is locally significant, directly affecting the community of Barangay Lipay. It has timeliness as it covers a recent election and human interest as it involves young voters and community engagement.

Article 4: "Despite her fame as a former Miss Universe finalist, Venus Raj leads a simple life in her hometown in Camarines Sur. She enjoys farming and spending time with her family, away from the glitz and glamour of the city. Her story is an inspiring tale of humility and groundedness."

- **Characteristics:** Human Interest, Oddity, Prominence
- **Explanation:** Venus Raj's choice to live a simple life, despite her fame, is an oddity and of human interest. Her prominence as a public figure adds to the newsworthiness of her lifestyle choices.

Article 5: "Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago engaged in a heated exchange with a state witness during a Senate hearing. The witness, testifying in a high-profile corruption case, faced tough questioning from the senator, who challenged the credibility of his statements. The confrontation highlighted the tension surrounding the investigation."

- **Characteristics:** Conflict, Prominence, Fairness/Balance, Relevance
- **Explanation:** The conflict between Senator Santiago and a state witness draws attention due to the prominence of the figures involved. The news is relevant as it pertains to a significant corruption case, and fairness/balance is essential in reporting on both sides of the exchange.

Session 3: Importance of News

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes

Learning Objective:

- Construct a scenario that illustrates the consequences of having no access to news, highlighting the significance of news in society.

Materials Needed:

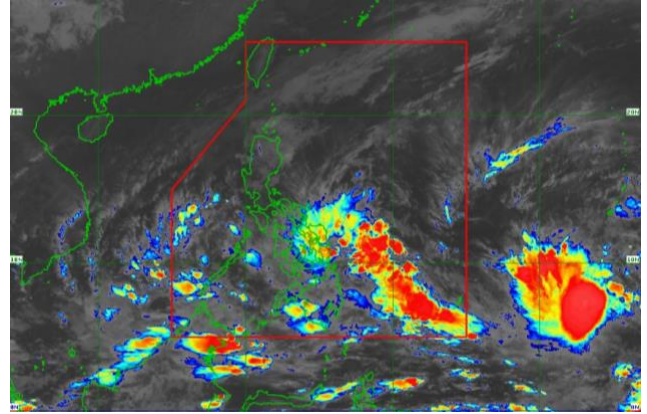
- Audio-Visual Presentation
- Printed images of news events
- Pen
- Laptop
- Television

Activities:

1. **Prompt Discussion** (15 minutes)
 - **Activity:** Discuss memorable news stories and their impacts.
 - **Instructions:**
 - Pose the question: "What recent news story from your neighborhood, TV, or radio do you remember the most, and why?"
 - Call 4 students to share their thoughts.
 - **Purpose:** To connect students' personal experiences with the broader impact of news.
2. **Lecture and Audio-Visual Presentation** (30 minutes)
 - **Activity:** Show an audio-visual presentation on the impact of news.
 - **Instructions:**
 - Present real-life scenarios of news impact on various sectors.
 - Lecture on the significance of news in these contexts.
 - **Purpose:** To provide a comprehensive overview of news' societal importance.
3. **Group Discussion** (30 minutes)
 - **Activity:** Discuss the impact of scenarios where news reports cannot be published.
 - **Instructions:**
 - Divide students into groups of three.
 - Each group discusses and presents the impact of news absence.
 - **Purpose:** To encourage critical thinking about the consequences of news absence.



ERUPTION OF MT. PINATUBO



LOW PRESSURE AREA APPROACHING THE PHILIPPINES



DENGUE OUTBREAK



CARLOS YULO IN PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

- If there was no news about the Pinatubo eruption, many lives could have been lost due to a lack of timely evacuation and disaster preparedness, and its significant impact on global climate change would not have been documented for historical awareness and scientific study.
- Without news about a dengue outbreak, communities would remain unaware of the threat, leading to a rapid increase in cases and potentially preventable deaths.
- The absence of news about a low-pressure area approaching the Philippines could result in insufficient preparations for severe weather, increasing the risk of damage and loss of life.
- If there were no news about Carlos Yulo's win in the Olympics, Filipinos might miss out on a moment of national pride and inspiration, weakening the sense of unity and celebration of national achievement.

Session 4: Basic Structure of News

Duration: 1 hour 20 minutes

Learning Objective:

- Rewrite a basic news story using the Inverted Pyramid Structure

Materials Needed:

- Illustration of the Inverted Pyramid Structure
- Printed excerpts from news articles
- Printed basic news articles for assessment
- Pen
- Laptop
- Television

Activities:

1. **Introduction to Inverted Pyramid** (15 minutes)
 - **Activity:** Introduce the inverted pyramid for news writing.
 - **Instructions:**
 - Show the traditional food pyramid and explain its structure.
 - Introduce the inverted pyramid for news writing.
 - **Purpose:** To familiarize students with the concept of the inverted pyramid.
2. **Lecture and Discussion** (40 minutes)
 - **Activity:** Analyze a news report using the inverted pyramid format.
 - **Instructions:**
 - Use pull-out cards to dissect the news report.
 - Discuss components of the inverted pyramid and their importance.
 - **Purpose:** To deepen understanding of the inverted pyramid structure.
3. **Hands-On Activity and Presentation** (25 minutes)
 - **Activity:** Reorganize a basic news article using the inverted pyramid format.
 - **Instructions:**
 - Provide students with a mixed-up news article.
 - Have students rearrange the article and present their work.
 - Provide feedback on their work.
 - **Purpose:** To practice applying the inverted pyramid format and assess students' ability to structure a news article.

ANSWER KEY.

The Philippines' Catriona Gray was named Miss Universe 2018 on Monday in Bangkok Thailand, besting contestants from 93 other countries and delighting her home nation.

Gray wore a sparkling red dress she said was inspired by a volcano in the Philippines as she was handed the crown to the delight of a roaring crowd in Bangkok that generally favored Southeast Asian contestants.

She edged out first runner-up Tamaryn Green of South Africa and third-place Sthefany Gutierrez of Venezuela. She succeeds Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters of South Africa.

The theme of this year's pageant was "Empowered Women" and was judged by seven women including former pageant winners, businesswomen and a fashion designer. The Philippines previously won Miss Universe titles in 2015, 1973 and 1969.

Resources & Technologies:

- Audio-Visual Presentation
- YouTube Accounts: ABS-CBN News, CNN Philippines, ANC, GMA News
- Online News Platforms: Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Rappler, Manila Bulletin
- Book: *Campus Journalism and School Paper Advising* by Ceciliano Jose-Cruz