

Midterm Study Guide: Test is Friday, Feb. 28

Note: Part 1 is to be turned in on Wednesday, Feb. 26

1. Writing two television news split-page format scripts for the Hunan Haven restaurant story and the Biology Student story (posted). Hunan Haven should be a 30 second “reader” story and Biology Student a 45 second “VO/SOT” story. Follow script sample guidelines posted on class website: [Double Fatality \(Reader\)](#) and [Cat Hoarder \(VO/SOT\)](#) (four points each) Again, this part is due Wednesday, Feb. 26.
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”?

MIDTERM EXAM TEST PORTION:

3. True/False— Key concepts and terms from the book
4. Multiple Choice Questions— Key concepts and terms from the book
5. Terms— Be able to describe/define key terms pertaining to TV newsrooms, news reporting, editing, and legal/ethical considerations
6. Matching/Word Bank— Terms/definitions on one side of page, definitions on the other side
7. “List Three”— You are asked to list three-- deals with key concepts in book
8. Writing effective news leads—From a list of facts to a news story, write an effective broadcast news lead (remember keep leads concise and conversational—to around 12 words)
9. Rewriting sentences from print style to broadcast style

BOOK AND POSTED ONLINE MATERIAL YOU SHOULD

Study the material below from Chapters 1-10

Posted material is on www.cofc.edu/~harwoodp (go to News Now class)

denotes possible list questions

Chapter 1, “All About News”

- ***Review the Characteristics of News on pages 17-24. Understand and be able to list the seven factors that determine what is newsworthy: conflict, uniqueness, prominence, impact, relevance, location and human interest/emotional impact
- ***The Characteristics of a Good Reporter in the box on page 28
- ***Review the RTDNA Code of Ethics on pages 26-27—be able to list several of the key elements of the Code of Ethics

Chapter 2, “The Television Newsroom”

- Be familiar with “The Key Players: A Summary of Goals and Skills” that describes the different jobs in a TV newsroom (p. 38-41)
- Review the section on Contemporary Newsroom Issues (p. 43-48)
- Review part on Sensationalism on p. 49 (sensational writing example)

Chapter 3, “News Sources”

- Key Concept terms on page 85

Chapter 4, “Using Public Records”

- Key Concept terms on page 115
- ***Review the Chapter 4 PowerPoint on our website—be familiar with my list of CofC news and news story idea sources

Chapter 5, “Legal Considerations”

- Key Concept terms on page 140
- Review posted [Libel and Privacy Elements](#)
- ***Five things a plaintiff in a libel suit must prove (p. 120-121)
- ***Three defenses reporters/news media have when facing libel charges (p.124-7)
- What is “qualified privilege”? (p. 127)
- Why media “retractions” are important (p. 127-8)
- What is meant by media “intrusion”? (p. 128) and “false light” (p. 131)
- Review section on Public Versus Private Property (p. 129)
- ***Two media defenses against Invasion-of-Privacy lawsuits (p. 132-3)
- What are “Shield Laws”? (p. 138-9)

Chapter 6, “Storytelling and Writing for Broadcast”

- Key Concept terms on page 180
- ***The “Five W’s” of Journalism (p. 145)
- Types or format of stories: News packages, Voice-Overs, VO-SOTs, Readers (p. 156-7)
- ***Soundbites—their four functions: credibility, emotion, opinion and adding variety to the story (p. 157)

- What can be the problem with “How Do You Feel?” questions? (p. 163)

Chapter 7, “Writing in Broadcast Style”

- Review section on Putting the Words Together—especially parts on when to use attribution, including necessary names and not including unnecessary names, placing titles before names, and delaying names in leads (p. 195-8)
- Review broadcast writing “Special Style Requirements” with ordinals, symbols, scores, times, dates, and abbreviations and acronyms (p. 201-3)
- 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 website posting mentioned above)
- Review newspaper-to-broadcast rewrites (class website)
- ***Review the Checklist for Broadcast-Style Writing” (p. 207)

Chapter 8, “Shooting Video I”

- Review purposes Stand Ups serve in a story and the tips for shooting good SUs (p. 216)
- 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. [\(handout posted\)](#)

Chapter 9, “Shooting Video II”

- Review handout homework [\(also posted\)](#)

Chapter 10, “Editing”

- Handout homework [\(posted\)](#)

