



TV News Reporting

Spring 2012

Assignment Due Date: Thursday, Feb. 2 (script and You Tube posting)

“Word on the Street” Report Assignment (script example follows)

Record a series of interviews on a newsworthy topic, something timely and topical. For our school’s program called “C of C Scene” you have been assigned to come up with the next “Word on the Street” segment, a two minute (give or take) report that consists of the viewers seeing you on camera introducing the “Word on the Street” topic, followed by a series of soundbites from people you interview (at least five). Your report closes with you back on camera with a stand-up close ending.

The preference is that the topic be issue-oriented “hard news.” Sports topics are OK too. The topic can be campus, Charleston, state, national or international in perspective. Think about a subject and topic that you think your fellow students should know about or that they would be interested in hearing comments about from fellow students. Think about the big news stories going on right now.

The final report should have at least five different soundbites from at least five different people. Be sure to have diversity, with a mix of comments from males, females, different races, different points of view, etc. The final length or time of the report, including your on-camera open and close, should be approximately 2:00-2:30.

Also, make sure to have a variety of backgrounds in the interview shots. They shouldn’t all be shot at the same place with the same background. Also have a mix of camera angles, some in which interviewees are looking left, others looking right. We can see you, as the reporter, in the shot but we don’t have to see you in the interviews.

You must also do an on-camera open and close to the report. Note the examples that will be shown in class. Make sure the report is scripted properly. A sample POS split-page script is posted on the class website.

In your on-camera opening you should say something like: “Hi, I’m (say your name) for C-of-C Scene. It’s time for our Word on the Street segment. This week, we wanted to get the views of College of Charleston students about... (give brief set up/background to your topic) (Note: this open should be kept to 15-20 seconds)

After your soundbites run, in your stand up close, wrap up the segment with some additional bit of information related to the topic people just spoke about. Then say “With the Word on the Street...I’m (your name).” or “For C-of-C Scene...I’m...”

When editing, be sure to use the titling feature to put “supers” with each soundbite and also with your stand up open and close. (Example: Jane Reporter/C of C Scene or Jane Jones/Sophomore History Major). Once edited, be sure to post your report on your You Tube channel.

We will view these on the due date in the Comm Media Lab.

If you like the name “Cougar Comments” better than “Word on the Street” for this report, go with it. Or use another name you like even better. You are encouraged to submit this and all of your reports to CTV and the Cougar Media Network for possible use on cisternyard.com.

**SC Primary Reax (POS)
Harwood
Feb. 2, 2012
TRT: 2:22 (give true length)**

Standup Open:

**Super: Patrick Harwood/
CofC Scene**

**Supers:
Super 1 name/title
Super 2 name/title
Super 3 name/title
Super 4 name/title
Super 5 name/title**

**Standup Close
Super: Patrick Harwood/
CofC Scene**

Write word-for-word what you say in stand up here. Make sure this part is double-spaced. Be sure to open your by introducing yourself: Hi...I'm Patrick Harwood for C-of-C Scene. It's time for our Word-on-the-Street report. Then briefly set up what your topic is in a few sentences before going to your series of soundbites...

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SOT: Give person's name and SOT time (15) (single space this part)
Incue: First three/four words
Outcue: Last three/four words**

SOT: do this for each soundbite

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Then conclude by writing what you say in your S-U close. Do more than just sign off, state the obvious, or repeat what we just heard. Add to the story in some way...give other information or new details. Then sign off: For C-of-C Scene...I'm**

**Patrick Harwood
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