TV News Reporting
Human Interest Feature Package Assignment
Due: Tuesday, December 5

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES DEFINED: “Stories about other people are interesting and important to us. For this reason, stories that stir emotions become news, but in a different way from the stories that lead the newscast. Stories that focus on emotional elements and generally do not affect people’s lives in other ways are known as human interest stories.” (from page 17 your textbook)

Your team’s task is to produce a human interest package. Your book on pages 17-18 describes this type of story in detail and gives a few examples. In the classes ahead, you will be shown several examples of such stories.

These stories are often touching and evoke from the viewer this response: “Ahhhh, wasn’t that a nice story” or “Ohhh, that’s so neat…or sad…or cool…”

Look for interesting, unusual people with interesting, unusual talents, skills, or hobbies. Or maybe someone who has overcome tremendous obstacles in life or faces extraordinary challenges.

Think of the visuals needed to tell the story, i.e. the video you would need to shoot as well as the people you would need to interview—the subject of the story and maybe some people who know him/her real well. Think about “natural sound” elements that can be included in your story, helping bring it to life and engage the viewer even more.

As you’ll see in our examples, a “human” interest story can be about an animal or perhaps about a place or a building with a compelling story to it.

The final product on tape should have an on-camera anchor lead to introduce the reporter’s story and finish with an on-camera anchor tag. Turn in a script also. Include, as always, who did what on your team. Total running time (TRT) is flexible, but should be at least 1:30.

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