

Writing Your News Stories

The How-to

1. The producer will start by asking for input and assigning stories to the reporters. Each reporter will work independently and write up the story. (Reporters may need to ask a group member to play a role in their story). Use online resources, or books in class to brainstorm for ideas.
2. The producer needs to make a list of reporters and their story assignments and submit to the NMC News Tonight CEO for approval.
3. Each reporter will begin to research and write their stories. They may ask anchors to help and use other group members as part of their stories.
4. Producers need to set the due dates and keep their team on schedule.
5. Anchors will work with the producer to write up the script they'll use to introduce each story and banter between segments. The script should be entertaining and give viewers a teaser of what's to come in each story.
6. Once the script and all the stories have been written, you can practice. Costumes should be used when possible.

How to write a news story

1. Make notes about the 5W's. These need to be included in the lead (opening) of your story.
2. Give background information for context. What events led to this story? Who else is involved? Why does this story matter to viewers?
3. Interview or get quotes from people directly impacted by the story.
4. Be sure to provide all sides to the story. Find someone to give a different perspective.
5. End with a non-essential, but interesting detail, to tie up the story.
6. Finish your report with "Colleen Nelson, NMC News Tonight, Tokyo, Japan" to tell the audience your name, network and location.
7. Provide one or two questions (and answers) for the anchor to ask you. The producer will have final say on if they are used.