



NewsBrands
Ireland

Press Pass Student Journalism and News Literacy Programme



Student Workbook 2018



PRESS PASS

Welcome to Press Pass 2018 - the seventh year of the NewsBrands Ireland Newspapers in Education (NiE) initiative.

How does Press Pass work?

During November, participating schools will receive a selection of local and national newspapers. These are used in conjunction with this workbook to give students a better understanding of how news is gathered and shared across many platforms and the important role newspapers play in our society and the necessity for a free press in any functioning democracy.

Teacher's Lesson Plan

A Teacher's Lesson Plan to accompany this workbook can be downloaded from www.presspass.ie. Designed to equip teachers with practical guidelines and tips for teaching the Press Pass module, the Lesson Plan has options to run the course as a 6 week or 12 week module – entirely dependent on your class group's interest and ability.

What is the aim of Press Pass?

The main aim is to encourage students to read and write more. Using newspapers as part of the daily curriculum, teachers and students will get a better understanding of news and current affairs and be exposed to a range of views and analysis - sometimes radical, sometimes infuriating, but always engaging and entertaining - to help them form opinions of their own.

What is the Press Pass workbook for?

This workbook is to be used in class in conjunction with the newspapers and lesson plan. It looks in detail at the main writing styles and range of skills that make up your daily newspaper: - What is news and how to write a news story - The difference between news and features - The skills required to write commentary - What makes a good photograph - The secrets behind good sports journalism. It also gives some practical hints and tips to students who plan to enter our search for the Student Journalist of the Year.

What about the competition?

We are always on the look out for new talent and the next generation of budding writers and journalists. Students can enter the competition in any one of the five categories: news, features, comment, photojournalism and sport. Details of how to enter, the rules, guidelines, tips and instructions are explained in the different sections throughout this guidebook. If you're looking for some inspiration, check out the winning entries in this year's NewsBrands Ireland Journalism Awards – www.journalismawards.ie

How to enter

The closing date for entries is 28th of February, 2019. Schools must submit all entries using the entry system in the competition section of the Press Pass website: www.presspass.ie

The winners

Our panel of judges will choose the winning entry from each of the five categories - plus two runners-up from each section. An overall winner will also be selected by the judges and all winners will be announced at a national awards ceremony in April 2019.

Good luck – and enjoy the process!

NewsBrands Ireland





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With contributions on p4&5 from
Professor Michael Foley, Chairman of
the Press Pass Judging panel
And p12-13 & p18-19 from Tim
Vaughan, Communications & Content
Strategist, Poppulo, and previously
Editor of the Irish Examiner

Photographs courtesy of
Press Photographers Association
of Ireland.



Why news matters

What is news?

We are all interested in news, right? 'I'm not', you say, 'it's boring, I'm not interested'. Well, I bet there are some reading this who are interested in the Premier League, fashion, the GAA, celebrities, rugby, or music, and you want information about those areas that interest you. That information must be new – there is no point in telling you something you knew already – and as accurate as possible – there is no point in having an inaccurate match score. Many of you either come from countries other than Ireland, or your families do: Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, or even next door in Britain. Sometimes you want to know what's going on at home, what's going on in your city, town or village.

All of that is news, and that news must give you an understanding of what is happening, must be true, and must give you information as quickly as possible. And that's not a bad definition of news.

But the issue for many of us, as we look at our phones, our iPads, TVs and newspapers, is that it is so hard to know what is real and what is fake. Those tweets, that Facebook post, the news you hear on the car radio, that video on YouTube, that blogger, what's real? People tell you things and swear they are true. It seems the more we hear and see, the less trustworthy it is.

So can you trust anything or should you just give up, accepting that there

is no way of differentiating. Well no, that would be dangerous, because we make decisions based on what we see and read, everything from what film to see, to how to vote (if over 18-years-of-age) or what subjects to take at school, based on education advice on a newspaper education page. Our views on the courts, the Gardai, politicians, or even footballers, is based on what we read, hear and see, whether on social media or in a newspaper, so knowing who and what to trust is important.

We need to learn how to interrogate all that information out there. What kind of content you are looking at – is it news, a feature, an opinion piece, a sports story, a blog post, a personal post on social



Holding the Party Line by Gerry Mooney

“We need to learn how to interrogate all that information out there.”

media, a rumour, or someone's opinion? Where did it come from? Is there a name attached? Does the journalist say where the information came from? What's its source? What was the writer's motivation? What evidence was provided? Was it fair to all involved?

You need to be able to trust the content you receive. Newspapers, either in print or online have trained journalists in newsrooms and are regulated. Most have signed up to a code of ethics, they try to be transparent, but they are not all the same. Every day, news organisations will offer a range of news but it will differ. The main story might be about the economy in one, a murder in another and the housing crisis

in a third. All three stories are important, and should be reported. Different types of newspapers or radio stations or TV stations, online or not, will give a different account of the world we live in. Look at the different outlets and find the one that you feel most comfortable with.

Understanding how the media works, what it does, how it does it, empowers you, makes you smarter and gives you a better understanding of the world around you.

PRESS PASS

The competition

HOW TO ENTER

As part of the Press Pass initiative, students and schools have an opportunity to enter our prestigious competition, the winners of which will be honoured at a national ceremony early next year. The competition has five categories: News, Features, Comment, Photojournalism and Sport. There are strict and specific rules for each category which must be adhered to.

All entries must be submitted via the competition section of the Press Pass website:
www.presspass.ie

IMPORTANT!

- The work must be your own. It cannot be copied from any other source.
- News, feature and sport articles must be fact and not fiction.
- Any and all quotes you use must be taken from interview(s) you have conducted.

If you do not adhere to the strict guidelines, your entry will not be considered by the judges.

**TO ENTER
GO TO**
presspass.ie



CATEGORIES

NEWS

For your news article, you can only choose from one of the options below:

- 1) Interview a local personality / politician / celebrity. Write the article based on your interview.
- 2) Identify an issue relevant to you, your school, or your area. Interview people relevant to your subject of choice. Write an article based on your interview.
- 3) Focus on an event in your local area. Write an article, giving details of what is / has happened, how, why, when and who was involved.

FEATURES

For your feature article, you can only choose from one of the options below:

- 1) Write a profile of a person/ group/organisation you admire.
- 2) Interview a well known personality. Write a feature based on your interview.

Articles must be no shorter than 600 words and no longer than 800 words.

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Photojournalism covers all the categories: News, Features, Comments, Sport.

Entries include photographs, graphics, cartoons or caricatures. All entries must be submitted in jpeg format with a minimum image size of 3MB.

COMMENT

For your Comment piece, you can only choose from one of the options below:

- 1) Write a letter to the Editor of no more than 400 words.
- 2) Choose an issue that affects you, or something that you have opinion on. Write a comment piece of between 400-600 words.

SPORT

For your Sport article, you can only choose from one of the options below:

- 1) Attend a local sporting event. Write an account of what happened - 400 words.
- 2) Write a profile of a sports personality you admire - 500 words.
- 3) Interview a well known sports personality. Write an article based on your interview - 500 words.



Dan the Man – A Hidden Hero

By Síomha Ní hAiniféin
Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne, An Daingean

Life is a journey” chuckles Dan O’ Hara, his dancing blue eyes crinkling like raisins. He sinks into a battered, old arm chair, abandoning a children’s rocking horse he had been working on. His home, a yellow bungalow, smells of freshly cut wood. Slightly musty with a tang of spice, it evokes the Moroccan deserts he once tirelessly explored under the blistering sun. Now” exclaims Dan, as gunshots from a John Wayne film crackle from the television, “where should I start?”

Hearsay had lured me to this home, nestled amongst the lush fields of Annascaul. A much travelled war veteran with many the tale to tell, Donald ‘Dan’ O’ Hara was born in 1925 in a bustling Lancashire village. Walking, wandering and wondering from eight months old, it was clear that to appease his wanderlust, Dan would live a life of adventure and accomplishment.

Dan’s hankering for the high way, or in his case the high seas, led him to join The Royal Navy aged fourteen. His ambition was simple as Dan longed to see his brother, a fellow Allied fighter. It is now that Dan’s voice begins to shake. He pauses for a moment, running his tattooed fingers through his unruly hair. His hair, like the incessant waves of Dunkirk, is wild and scary, akin to Dan’s feelings when he reminisces about D-Day. Feeling he bears an uncanny resemblance to ‘Alex’, Harry Style’s character in the film, Dan survived ‘Dunkirk’ and indeed D-Day but it was



Learn from last year’s winner

also the first time Dan encountered true human cruelty and it frightened him. Recalling this memory, he solemnly glances towards the sky, lost in turbulent thoughts.

Haunted by these thoughts of the “awful, bloody war” and determined to right wrongs, Dan trained as a welder and a deep sea driver. To escape fear you have to go through it, not around it, and in Dan’s case, he brazenly swam through it, decommissioning Nazi bombs in English Ports. I asked why he voluntarily faced the possibility of death once more, “Ah lass, ‘twas my calling”.

Yet not even the zealous industriousness of the Wehrmacht could deploy enough bombs in England to keep Dan in this job for too long. A post war period of economic boom and exploration ensued, enticing Dan’s welding torch to travel from oil rigs and exploration sites to such diverse places as Morocco and Argentina during what Dan

called the ‘Dirty War.’” I enjoyed the job, the pay was good and I’ve travelled all over,” remarks Dan of a career which continued well into his seventies.

It was during this time that Dan and his second wife made a dérive to the then tired village of Annascaul on the edge of the remote Dingle Peninsula. To a small community under dark and dreary skies, emblematic of the area, the duo brought vibrancy and vigour. An accomplished sheep breeder and chicken keeper, my first memory of Dan was of his boisterous black hens and a cock that became my brother and I’s alarm clock, much to our parent’s chagrin. Dan lets out a throaty laugh as I share this memory. ‘I always wanted the rarest chickens in the village, the only problem with those buggers, they could not fly that high but high enough to hide eggs in trees.’ Much to his doctor’s displeasure, the then eighty year old Dan would scale the steep Sycamore trees

in search of breakfast. If Dan’s doctor was worried then if he heard what he accomplished five years later, he’d keel over. When Dan travelled to Australia for his eighty-fifth birthday he achieved world records for skydiving and freefalling.

So I ask a man of endeavour how does one unwind from a busy day plunging from planes, chasing chickens and extracting oil? “I love John Wayne Westerns and making model boats and saddles”. My father remembers jumping into ditches for cover as if they were trenches in Normandy when he heard the gallop of Dan’s wild pony. Dan rode side-saddle mimicking his cowboy hero. These days you are more likely to see Dan aged ninety three cruising up strenuous slopes on his ride-on lawnmower after his car licence expired.

Like our other local ‘Fame Laureate’ Tom Crean, Dan is a true hero, who beat adversity, to live an eccentric life of ‘devilment’ and bravado. In an era that sometimes smacks of vices rather than virtue, it is nice to sit back and immerse yourself in the story of Dan O’Hara, a man who graduated from the school of life with an ‘A’ in courage and in character. As I shut the red door of this extraordinary man’s home, the author Bodi Ashton’s quote “Heroes are made by the paths they choose, not by the powers they are graced with,” springs to mind.

“Press Pass gives students the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the media, how it works and who to trust by learning to do journalism themselves. If a student knows how good journalism is made, then they are better equipped to interrogate the information that bombards them daily.”

Prof. Michael Foley, Chairman
of the Judging Panel



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NEWS

"What you see is news,
what you know is background,
what you feel is opinion"

- Lester Markel, American journalist, 1894-1977

What is the job of a journalist?

Even in the age of 24-hour news cycles, digital platforms and social media, the key function of a journalist remains the same - gather the information and present it fairly and accurately.

The key for any journalist is to give an accurate and balanced report of whatever they are working on and whatever platform they are reporting on - print or digital.

If a criminal is gunned down in broad daylight, it's the job of the journalist to tell the reader what happened, who it happened to, how it happened, why it happened and when it happened.

If you answer those five key questions, then 99 times out of 100, you've done your job properly.

Remember, news is supposed to be fair, accurate and balanced - it's not your view on what's happened, not what you think might or should have happened. It's what actually happened - the facts of which you have checked, and double checked.

Do



Do: Make your story interesting and relevant.



Do: Always check your facts. Credibility is the most valuable asset to a reporter.



Do: Be balanced - always give both sides of the story.



Do: Use lots of quotes. People love reading what other people say.

Don't



Don't: Start your news articles with a question. Stick to the basic introduction formula and you can't go wrong.



Don't: Editorialise - news stories are fact not opinion. It is not your job to argue a point of view, or sum up with your opinion. Just present the facts and let the reader draw his/her own conclusions.



Don't: Get flowery - keep your sentences and paragraphs short.



Don't: Use lots of heavily descriptive language. When you've finished, go through the entire story and try to remove any words that aren't completely necessary.



Perfect Match as Education to Remain 'Sacred' in Dingle

By James Ó Dubháin
Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne, An Daingean



'Cleamhnas,' the practice of arranged marriages, makes a welcome return to West Kerry, albeit in the guise of a match very different to its predecessors. The recent pairing of an old stalwart in Dingle CBS and its new suitor, Connecticut based Sacred Heart University will result in the preservation of an important aspect, the continued provision of education in the area.

Having served the town for close to 160 years, Dingle CBS closed its doors as a secondary school in May 2007. Situated in a prominent location, it was hoped that the listed buildings, history and ethos of the school would remain if a suitable buyer could be found. Prospective partners would have to offer an educational dowry of note in exchange for inheriting the family silver.

Having flirted with various entities and suits over the years, the administrative matchmakers have accepted an offer that will preserve and maintain the practices of the past and produce some interesting offspring in the future.

The CBS began with a mission to educate the 'poor boys of Dingle' therefore an educational component was a mandatory requirement to entertain any proposal of purchase. The perfect match was found in the private Catholic institution that is Sacred Heart University. Initially invited to send students to Dingle's 'An Díseart' by Monsignor Ó Fiannachta

Learn from last year's winner



in 2004, the university later increased its programme for international study. With the popularity of the programme gaining more traction in Connecticut, the university made the move to purchase the Dingle CBS site and further develop its educational commitment to the town and develop a permanent international campus.

'By 2018 we would expect close to 300 US students studying short term and semester long courses' says Campus Director Sean Pól Ó Conchúir. 'New courses have been introduced and each year brings new courses. These will be linked to aspects synonymous with the town, marine biology and tourism being examples.' The Campus Director also pointed out that Nursing courses have been offered for the past number of years and continue to exist and expand thanks to support from I.T. Tralee, The Bons Secour hospital and

the West Kerry Community Hospital. Community support has also been very forthcoming. 'Local businesses have been very instrumental in assisting the university up to this point. They have provided guest speakers, internships and Údarás na Gaeltachta have made grants available.' The University's decision to marry into the area is a boon for the peninsula as Seán Pól points out, 'The commitment of over 1 million dollars towards the campus development is fantastic for the town and in particular for the Dingle CBS site.'

The Christian Brothers' stipulation of an educational match has been well and truly met. Sacred Heart continues its links with Dingle secondary school Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne through its educational system comparison module in its January programme, as students under the tutelage of Mike Giarratano study the Irish model and mingle happily with second level pupils. Sacred Heart will continue to operate from its original home at An Díseart until the new campus is ready. As Sean Pól Ó Conchúir points out 'Fite Fuaite' is an Irish expression that captures that which is interwoven. Dingle CBS and Sacred Heart Connecticut are a prime example of this, an educational match that entwines many links.'

It is anticipated that once planning regulations have been met, S.H.U.'s Dingle Campus will take approximately 18 months to complete.



“ A news story, unlike any other journalistic endeavour, has a carefully crafted formula for success. The job of the news reporter is to tell the reader what happened, who it happened to, how it happened and when it happened. ”

Press Pass Judging Panel

How to Write News

Your job is to make the news story as relevant, interesting, informative and as accurate as you can.

Always remember who you are writing for. The person reading the Irish Times will want the information written and presented in a certain way, so too the person reading the Irish Sun.

So whether you're writing for the school newspaper, or the New York Times, be aware of your audience.

Keep the story simple and straight-forward. Make it as easy as possible for the reader to digest the information.

The opening paragraph (or intro) is vital - it's your only chance to grab the reader's attention and entice them to read on.

Remember - you've lost 30% of readers after the first paragraph and 50% by paragraph four.

How to Structure a News Story

Remember the five Ws when writing news - Who, What, Where, When and Why. Answer these for the reader and you've done your job.

The Introduction

The most important section of any news story is the opening paragraph. The intro communicates the facts of the article in the first few lines.

FOR EXAMPLE: A man was gunned down in front of shocked shoppers in the latest gangland tit-for-tat murder.

What?

The What - summarise what happened.

The 31-year-old, identified as one of the country's leading drug dealers, was shot six times in the head and chest.

When?

The When - give the reader some more of the key details.

He was shot shortly after 1pm, by a lone gunman, as he walked down Grafton Street in front of hundreds of shoppers.

Headline

Five times as many people read headlines as the actual story

Picture

Detailed picture enhances the story

Byline

Journalist who broke the story

What

Tell the reader what happened

Why

How the controversy erupted

Additional info

Further details to enhance story

Email

Contact for newsroom

DO J F BEY



Celeb couple good news

BY EDWARD MCG

Beyoncé has given
according to report
websites.

The singer, who is
and music producer
daughter, Blue Ivy.

E! News, citing mul
the birth and that Jay
Angeleno area hospital.

Us Weekly, also cit
reported that the coup
"Bey and Jay are thrill
with their family and
People.

A representative for L
for comment.

The celebrity news v
details, such as the da
the sex of the infants.

The performer, one
the music business,
Instagram account in
posing in lingerie and

The announcement h
24 hours to become th

The R&B singer per
in Los Angeles two v
swelling belly in a m
since posted numerou
social media accounts

The birth of Blue Ivy
with New York's Leno
its maternity wing to a

News of the pregnan
release of Beyoncé's 2
appeared to address h
her eight-year marria

The lyrics of severa
and regretting being
the final tracks of the
Jay Z that she had dec

The couple has never

DOUBLE JOY FOR Beyoncé



ple share
S

CARTHY

birth to twins in Los Angeles,
arts on several celebrity news

35, and her partner, the rapper
Jay Z, already have a five-year-old

multiple unidentified sources, reported
Jay Z and Blue Ivy were seen at a Los
Angeles restaurant on Thursday.

ing multiple unidentified sources,
Beyoncé welcomed twins earlier this week.
Beyoncé and have started sharing the news
with her closest friends," one source told

Beyoncé did not respond to a request for

websites did not provide additional
date and time the twins were born or

of the most powerful women in
announced the pregnancy on her
February along with an image of her
caressing a noticeable baby bump.

had more than 8m "likes" in the first
few "most liked" Instagram post ever.

formed live at the Grammy awards
weeks later, proudly displaying her
motherhood-themed show. She has
pictures of her bare baby bump on

y caused a paparazzi storm in 2012,
a Los Angeles hospital shutting down part of
to accommodate the family.

cy came less than a year after the
2016 album *Lemonade*, in which she
longstanding rumours of trouble in
the marriage.

songs spoke about being cheated on,
married. But Beyoncé made clear in
the album and in music videos featuring
her husband that she intended to stay in the relationship.
Beyoncé addressed the rumours publicly.

Headline

Must give people a
reason to read on

Font

large, bold text to show
it's the most important
element of design

Sub head

Holds the reader's
attention by giving
more details

Intro

The golden rule is
KISS — keep it short
and simple

Who

Who it happened to

When

Exact details
of when it
happened

Who?

The Who - who is the story about.

Gardai believe the murdered man was Joe Bloggs, from the inner city. Bloggs was a career criminal who was one of the main importers of cocaine into the country.

Why?

The Why - vital background information

Bloggs had survived an attempt on his life last year and was, according to sources, 'a dead man walking' after double crossing his former partner in crime.

Where?

The Where - give more details of the attack.

Bloggs was just passing the entrance of HMV when a hooded man approached and pulled a gun from his jacket pocket, according to eyewitness accounts.

In this case, you would use plenty of quotations, what people saw, what they heard, what they did, what happened next.

Key tips

Know your audience - who are you writing for?

Regardless of the platform you are writing for - always remember - be brief and to the point
Never forget the the 5 Ws -

Who? What? When? Where? Why?

1. Tell the reader how you know what you know - source every new piece of information.
2. Be clear and accurate - make sure your story makes sense.
3. Reread for accuracy and fairness before you finish.
4. Check all the numbers, dates and details.
5. Check your spelling and punctuation - ensure names are spelled correctly and consistently throughout the story.
6. Check for balance. Is the story balanced and fair? Does it tell both sides of the story?

Writing styles

Different newspapers and different sections within newspapers require a range of varied writing styles, irrespective of whether they are broadsheet publications or 'red top' tabloids. What is required in a news story is far removed from a background feature on tracker mortgages, 12 paragraphs of colour from an All-Ireland Hurling Final, or summing up a complex court case in 800 words.

Skilled journalists can deliver whatever style is required across the spectrum, from news to features to analysis to commentary. However, such skill is slowly crafted from constant honing, and observing and learning from the best.

While the building blocks of a news story continue to form the basics of good journalism, the ability to deliver informed analysis and authoritative commentary are increasingly essential in a world of confusing social media noise.

Here are some examples of the different writing styles deployed across various newspapers when 'The Beast from The East' met 'Storm Emma' to cause havoc across the country earlier this year.



1 News

A news story is all about the facts.

In an era of 'fake news', the words of C.P. Scott are more important than ever: "Comment is free, facts are sacred".

Always tick the five W boxes and one H:

Who (was involved), what (happened), where (did it take place), when (did it take place) why (did it happen) and how (did it happen)?

Broadsheet: The country is facing total shutdown from 4pm today with people ordered to stay indoors, schools and colleges closed, rail and bus services halted, and motorists ordered it would be 'suicidal' to take to the roads. The warning was issued as it was confirmed the 'Beast from the East' and 'Storm Emma' will clash directly over Ireland today. The Government said between 22cm and 28cm of snow will fall by tomorrow afternoon. People in Cork City, which will be among the first areas hit by the storm, face a further hazard as they brace for high tides and flooding.

Tabloid: A killer blizzard is due to sweep across the country today, with people warned to stay indoors after 4pm, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said there is a real risk to life over the next 48 hours as snow of up to 25cm is expected combined with storm-force winds.

The "total whiteout" is predicted to be the worst winter weather since 1982. "We are on red alert. Everybody should stay indoors," Mr Varadkar said.

2 Colour

A colour piece strives to capture an event in words, in a way that brings it alive for the reader who wasn't there. Where a news story is hard fact-driven, colour paints vivid pictures.

(My children) finally had their whiteout, the first one they would properly remember. And, joy to beat all joys, schools were closed. The first ring to the door from a pal came before 9am, the first snowball fight came about one and a half minutes later and the first attack of tears because "he hurt me" about one and a half minutes after that.

And then there was the inevitable snowman. The thing the happy, smiling pictures don't tell you is that constructing these guys with fresh, powdery snow takes a long, long time and a lot of hard work... A day and a half in, several snowball fights, one life lesson ("never eat yellow snow") and one mini-snowman later, the novelty of spending every minute of their first snow break from school in the actual snow was starting to wear off, just a touch. "I feel very cold now," the six-year-old ventured in her smallest voice. "Can I watch Netflix?"

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Nicola Anderson: Lurid messages at the Ulster rape trial
Neil Francis: Ireland must fear Scottish flair
Grand Slam Fever - Sport

Shutdown: storm warning to clear streets by 4pm
"No PM could agree to it" - disarray as May rejects Brexit paper

Defence Forces to take on ambulances and fire fighting
'Clash Zone' as Storm Emma meets Arctic freeze
Schools kept closed and public transport curtailed

SNOWED IN? STAY IN TOUCH
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'BEAST FROM THE EAST'
WORST YET TO COME
DAD 'CHOKED' BABY WITH TISSUE' TRIAL TOLD P6

HEALTH SPECIAL
MEASLES: SILENT KILLER
WINTER: NOT TO OUTDOOR INFLUENZA
STAY INDOORS: HOW TO STAY SAFE AT SCHOOL

SEE PAGES 2, 4, 6, 8, 14



Country braces for total shutdown

Storm Emma is set to hit the east coast of Ireland with high winds and heavy rain. The Met Éireann has issued a yellow weather warning for the east coast, with the possibility of flooding as storm approaches. The Met Éireann has issued a yellow weather warning for the east coast, with the possibility of flooding as storm approaches. The Met Éireann has issued a yellow weather warning for the east coast, with the possibility of flooding as storm approaches.



Storm Emma, a small pressure system of low-level clouds, is set to hit the east coast of Ireland with high winds and heavy rain. The Met Éireann has issued a yellow weather warning for the east coast, with the possibility of flooding as storm approaches.

RSA makes €1.7m windfall from L-drivers missing test

Richard O'Connell
The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has made a windfall of €1.7m from the L-plate drivers who failed to appear for their test on Wednesday. The RSA said that it had received a total of €1.7m from the L-plate drivers who failed to appear for their test on Wednesday.

Cook can be 'Cauchy' What?
The Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, has been accused of being 'Cauchy' by a group of people. The Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, has been accused of being 'Cauchy' by a group of people.

Government 'not provoking' UK on Brexit

John McManus
The Government has been accused of 'provoking' the UK on Brexit. The Government has been accused of 'provoking' the UK on Brexit.

For a free copy of this issue, call 01 454 4444 or visit www.irishtimes.com

THE IRISH TIMES

Draft deal on Brexit rejected by May
The Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, has rejected a draft deal on Brexit. The Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, has rejected a draft deal on Brexit.



People urged to stay indoors for blizzard

Up to 40mm of snow forecast to fall by noon tomorrow in Limerick and Munster. The Met Éireann has issued a yellow weather warning for the east coast, with the possibility of flooding as storm approaches.

Mandatory retirement may be abolished

The Government has been accused of 'provoking' the UK on Brexit. The Government has been accused of 'provoking' the UK on Brexit.

Home News

World News

Business + Technology

Sports Thursday

Weather

Home News

World News

Business + Technology

Sports Thursday

Weather

Home News

World News

Business + Technology

Sports Thursday

Weather

Home News

World News

Business + Technology

Sports Thursday

Weather

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World News

Business + Technology

Sports Thursday

Weather

Home News

World News

Business + Technology

Sports Thursday

Weather

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World News

Newspaper analysis goes beyond the immediate facts of a news story and places them in a broader and deeper context, assessing and evaluating their wider impact beyond the immediacy of a specific event.

The big freeze is set to cost more than €160m as the blizzard keeps most of the country housebound. Industry sources expect the economic cost to shops, restaurants and bars will be more than €70m each day - following a shutdown of most businesses and transport modes yesterday and today.

Transport companies such as Dublin Bus, Irish Rail and Bus Éireann have all effectively been in shutdown since early on Wednesday.

Both bus companies closed entirely yesterday and today.

Irish Rail and Dublin Bus are both expected to experience revenue losses for fares of around €600,000 for each day, working out at €1.2m each over the course of the two days.

Bus Éireann is anticipating revenue losses of around €250,000 for the two days without any services.

Insurance Ireland say it is too difficult to estimate the damage cost of this latest blizzard.

However, the last big freezes in Ireland in January and December 2010 saw payouts of €297m and €224m respectively.

The restaurant sector alone lost around €50m in revenue, as businesses count the cost of the weather-related disruption.

Business lobby groups, for the most part, shied away from estimating the cost in lost revenue, but Restaurants Association of Ireland chief Adrian Cummins said it would be around the €50m mark for his members.

3 Feature

Unlike a news story, a feature need not be time sensitive and should have readers on a hook from the arresting intro to the closing par. Aside from colour writing it's the form best suited to flair and creativity.

The apocalypse is nigh - 7 things that will inevitably happen when Storm Emma hits Ireland.

We have notoriously short memories when it comes to the weather here in Ireland. Granted, it has been eight years since we've endured a genuine cold snap, but you can be sure we learned nothing from that experience.

Here are a few things that will inevitably happen in the coming days...

Fear of the unknown causes the anxiety to rise. All those unanswered questions: Will the schools close? Will I need to take time off work? How bad will the roads be? Is our car rear wheel drive? Should we buy those claw things for the wheels? What if the pipes burst? Where are the candles? Do we have enough heating oil to survive the week? Is Netflix paid up? Are we stocked up on bread, milk, wine?

Nary a snowflake to be seen and the supermarkets have already been cleaned out. The shelves are not just empty of bread but milk and meat too. Because perishables are exactly what you need in a crisis, aren't they? Before Ophelia hit last year, Irish retailers in some areas saw a spike in sales likened to a 'mini Christmas' and it looks like they're raking it in again ahead of the Beast from the East.

4 Comment

Comment can take the form of a newspaper editorial or it can be the personal opinion of a journalist or contributor.

If the country was a company, Ireland Inc would be reported as having undergone a disorderly wind-down. At short notice, its internal infrastructure, including Government offices, failed to function. Short of taking in the roads ('Father Ted'-style), the instructions not to travel couldn't have been any clearer.

There was a run on the national currency... which apparently is now bread. And the CEO, Leo Varadkar, made a moody statement telling workers the next 24 hours "are going to be a challenge for us".

But hopefully by the end of today we'll be able to say that the future for Ireland Inc looks positive.

Perhaps what's more remarkable than the fact that the Government called for a national shutdown is the fact that people listened.

By 4pm the country had heeded the warnings. Housing Minister Eoghan Murphy, along with Mr Hogan and Ms Cusack, beat their own retreat to Buswell's Hotel across from Leinster House where they waited it out.

This evening the country faces a new challenge. The shops will be restocked, and in time roads will be cleared.

Local authorities, the Defence Forces and the Government must relaunch Ireland. And the pressure will be on to do it in an orderly fashion.

100KPH Beast from East bites



HOW TO CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW

An interview is one of the best sources of news. Talking to someone, asking questions, asking the **right** questions is a great way of eliciting information. Some of the best, most informative and interesting stories have come from interviews.



Created by Photoroyalty - Freepik.com

1) The more you do your homework in advance, the easier it will be.

Find out as much as possible about the person you are interviewing in advance - your background knowledge will tell you your subject you are really interested in their story.

2) Be ready

Try to anticipate what kind of story you will end up with. You should know what to expect from the interview, but keep an open mind in case there's a different story - a better angle - or a second story.

3) Key questions

- Write down your questions in advance.
- Have an idea of what information you want to get - that should help you frame your questions.
- Make sure you cover all the key areas you want to talk about.
- Be realistic - there's no point asking 50 questions, if you only have time, or room in your article, for 10.
- Work out the timing - how long your questions will take to ask, how long the interviewee will allow you.
- Don't be afraid to ask about the time in advance - nothing worse than turning up only to discover that the person you are interviewing has only 10 minutes to talk.
- Be interesting - if you ask boring questions, you'll get boring answers.

4) Be right

Check and double check every detail. If the answer is not clear, or you don't understand it, don't be afraid to ask it again. Check the spelling of names, addresses and other unusual details - don't presume you know. It would be a pity to get personal or other details wrong because you didn't take time to check.

5) Note taking

Make sure you take down the details correctly. Not much good if you can't read your writing afterwards! If you plan to record (either audio or video) the interview make sure the device is working properly, you have enough storage room and battery power.

6) Listen

You're there to listen, not to talk. Let **them** do the talking and then make sure you gather plenty of quotes.

7) Wrap up

Just before you leave, make sure you've asked all your questions and covered all the topics. Then ask the "bucket question" - "Is there anything else you feel I should know / you would like to tell me"? Get a phone number, in case you need to double check any details later.

8) Read it

Always read what you write. Make sure the transcript of your interview makes sense, reads well, is accurate and a fair reflection of the interview.



Digital Media

Since the advent of the internet, our means of communication have greatly expanded, completely transforming the world of news. The digital era has introduced an instantaneous way of accessing news, often through news snippets online or through social media channels. This means at every second there are multiple news channels providing users with instant news feeds.

The news publishing industry has always been innovative and dynamic and today's newspaper publishers have evolved from daily print publishers to 24/7 news providers. Content is being delivered to readers faster than ever, and news publishers have embraced technologies and innovations that allow them provide greater value to the reader.

Every Irish newspaper has their own news website or multiple websites which offer

the same news as the printed newspaper along with additional unique online content including interactive content such as videos, podcasts, live feeds, and breaking news. Journalists across the newspaper publishing industry have become tech-savvy and their role is constantly evolving. In today's web-first approach, the main focus often is on breaking news and getting those stories on the web as fast as possible, on a 24-hour-a-day, 7-days-a-week news cycle. Some publications have set up "continuous news desks" with dedicated staffs that produce round-the-clock breaking news for the web.

Along with constant innovation, traditional news values must continue to be embraced and celebrated: reporting, verifying, fact checking and gathering eyewitness statements, to enable news publishers' core mission of helping readers become informed citizens.

Social media has transformed how news is gathered, read, viewed, shared and circulated.



For journalists and news organisations, social networks provide an opportunity for connecting with people, distributing news stories and complementing news coverage with feeds from social media

How Journalists Use Social Media

- Today's reporters use social media to break news stories, converse with people and showcase their stories
- News organisations all have their own pages on social networks, such as a fan page on Facebook, and use that to alert people to important news stories
- Journalists regularly use social networks to find sources for stories, such as eye witness reports during major events



POPULAR IRISH JOURNALISTS ON TWITTER



@cooper_m

Presenter,
The Last Word, Today FM



@roisiningle

Deputy Features Editor,
The Irish Times



@fionnansheahan

Editor,
Irish Independent



@McConnellDaniel

Political Editor,
Irish Examiner



@ElaineByrne

Columnist,
Sunday Business Post



@leeofthemail

Political Editor,
Mail on Sunday



FROM TWEET TO Front page

Social media has revolutionised the traditional news cycle. Breaking news is now routinely created and published instantly by anybody with a smartphone and a Twitter or Facebook account, whether it's US President Trump sacking his Secretary of State by tweet, or journalists reporting on major events closer to home.

People now expect to be able to get breaking news instantly on their mobile devices, whether it's the latest news on Brexit, the result of a referendum, or updates on live sporting events, and they know they can rely on newspapers for the crucial additional insight and analysis.

1 The Belfast Rape Trial

One of the most discussed and controversial events of 2018 was the Belfast trial of Ireland rugby players Paddy Jackson and Stuart Olding on charges of rape. Throughout the court case public opinion was sharply divided and the outcome eagerly anticipated. Immediately after Jackson and Olding were found not guilty the news spread rapidly on Twitter.



2 From Twitter to Website

As the trial result spread like wildfire on social media, newspaper websites layered updates and reaction to the breaking news, as the outcome reinforced already divided opinion on the case. However, unlike much social media commentary, newspaper coverage adhered to Ireland's strict Defamation and Contempt of Court laws - and maintained standards of decency while navigating a fraught landscape of deeply divergent opinions and emotions.

Four cleared of all charges in Belfast rape trial

Paddy Jackson and Stuart Olding cleared of rape, Blane McIlroy and Rory Harrison also acquitted

Q Wed, Mar 28, 2018, 12:07 | Updated: Wed, Mar 28, 2018, 14:25

Conor Gallagher in Belfast



The four accused in the rape trial of Ireland and Ulster players Paddy Jackson and Stuart Olding have been acquitted of all charges

Rugby rape trial: Massive outpouring of commentary on social media as #IBelieveHer trends



3 From Website to Front Page

The following morning's newspaper front pages were dominated by the trial result, with each publication also devoting several inside pages of analysis and commentary, reflecting the national conversation on one of the most contentious cases of recent years, and underlining the unique role of newspapers in stimulating informed and important public debate.



Features

Features Tutorial

What is a feature?

The main differences between a feature and a news story are style and length.

Whereas news is straight-up factual and strictly structured, features are longer, more analytical and softer focussed.

Features can vary widely, from fashion to diet fads, celebrity profiles to human interest stories. They can accompany a news story, or in most cases they have their own section in newspapers and magazines.

How to write a feature

Writing a feature affords the journalist the luxury to use more colourful, descriptive language. In addition, a feature story doesn't have to follow the conventional structure of a news story, i.e. the most important part of the story at the top of the article.

With a feature, once you catch the reader's attention from the start, you can then build to the climax, or the main point, and work around that with descriptions or important information on the topic.

It is a common style for journalists to start a feature with a very graphic, descriptive introduction to draw in the reader, building the information slowly but surely, and then round it off nicely, letting the reader feel satisfied that they know all they need about the subject by the last line.

Some writers end lighter stories with a funny line at the end,



feature

SPACE: my final frontier

With talents in both science and drama, Dr Niamh Shaw has successfully combined her passions and carved a unique career for herself making space exploration interesting for everyone. But the Dundalk woman has her sights set on the ultimate goal – becoming an astronaut. Here, **DARRAGH MCMANUS** meets a lady on an interplanetary mission

16 IRISH INDEPENDENT WEEKEND MAGAZINE 10 June 2018



Headline

Catchy headlines help grab the attention

10 WorldNews

Escaping Boko Haram: the mother who hid her daughter in a ditch for nine months



Sally Hayden
Zainabou Hamayaji faked mental illness to liberate her daughter from searching for her eldest girl

When she first stepped out of the Boko Haram zone, Zainabou Hamayaji faked mental illness to liberate her daughter from searching for her eldest girl.



Zainabou Hamayaji faked mental illness to liberate her daughter from searching for her eldest girl.

Boko Haram decided they did not want a child from a woman... they were saying nobody should talk. It was a curse, so I was protected.

When she first stepped out of the Boko Haram zone, Zainabou Hamayaji faked mental illness to liberate her daughter from searching for her eldest girl.

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The young Niamh would "restrict" her own ambitions, telling herself that a career in space exploration was simply "not

But one good thing about doing a

times when I made a decision that put me on a different course, and sent my fourth-dimensional self in a different direction.

Niamh wasn't "serious dream", so she hasn't had yet. (The minimum criteria for selection, incidentally, is

the opportunity
ria for astronaut
challenges, a danger


those Mars missions, Niemann interviewed the technicians working at ESA's Astronaut Centre: she calls them "the unsung heroes. The statement is just the tip of the iceberg."


next mission. I've stripped my life down to its simplest elements. And I know my people can't do this, they don't have a

Through her own ambitions, telling herself that a career in space exploration was "simply not

PhD, she reckons, is that "there's nowhere to hide – you put yourself throughout the something that difficult, it gives you the confidence to say no." So she said no to a life of academia, instead turning to art. She'd always been a creative child, writing plays, performing for family and friends. As an adult in Namibia he's been "acting on and off in ad-ram" for 15 years, and in the early Noughties began getting involved in the theatre scene in

probabilities, and says that every time you make a decision, your fourth-dimensional self bisects into two. You become like a tree of choices made. So by the tenth dimension, you can draw this tree of life, built by your decisions, and hop from one to the other.

"So for that show I looked at all those times when I made a decision that put me on a different course, and sent my fourth-dimensional self in a different direction. 



In that instant, Niamh realised: "If I don't do something about this, it will haunt me for the rest of my life. This unrealised dream will be gnawing at the back of my mind forever. I felt I had no choice. So then it was a question of, how can I achieve this dream and get into space?" Unfortunately, there was no question of applying directly to become an astronaut. For one thing, you must be a US citizen to get on-board with NASA. The European Space Agency's (ESA) last call for astronauts was in 2009, but when Niamh wasn't "seriously pursuing this dream", so she hasn't had the opportunity yet. (The minimum criteria for astronaut

And he made the show, it was made, "resonating" with the audience for 30 years. "If anything will get me into space, it will be as a communicator. I'm too old to be an astronaut. I am an engineer but don't want to be an astronaut. I am an astronaut, but not an astronaut. But I seem to be able to relate this information to a wider audience. I think that's my unique contribution of what it is to be human."

His third theatre show, *Diary of a Martian Bee-keeper*, was inspired by his work with ESA's Space Shuttle technicians working at ESA's astronaut centre. She calls them "the unsung heroes of space."

(She also noted the only Irish women with their sights trained on the stars) Mayo scientist Norah Patten, a doctor of aeronautical engineering from UCL, one of 12 participants in Project POSSUM – Polar Suborbital Science in the Upper Mesosphere – a unique scientist-astronaut training programme which takes place in Florida next October.)

It is, Niamh accepts, a tough life in some ways – but a blessed one too. "I made some huge personal sacrifices: live alone, I've very few outings. Even a penny I make goes on the next trip, the next mission. I've stripped my life down to its simplest elements. And I know me

By Scarlett Rodrigues
Dominican College, Galway.

LIVING LIFE

Edited by Anne O'Donnell

ALSO: THEATER BOOK MOVIES TV BOOKS TRAVEL THEATRE

Country Trails

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It's not possible to know if someone has HIV by looking at them. In Ireland approximately 7000 people live with HIV and the European Centre for Disease Control estimates a further three in ten people living with HIV don't know their status. With these figures and an average of ten people being diagnosed each week, there is a chance some of my friends have a positive status. To them I say, I chose you as my friend and will support you to live the life you choose.

A feature should be entertaining, colourful but important

“Of the hundreds of essays we trawled through across the four categories the Features winner was easily one of the stand out entries.”

Press Pass Judging Panel

Before you begin

Many news reporters struggle with the freedom of the feature article, and vice versa with feature writers who are asked to report on a news story.

They are two very different disciplines, and few manage to straddle both sides of the journalism divide with equal success.

Think of the feature article like a short story mixed with a parable - it should be entertaining, colourful but with important information to convey.



Check list

- ✓ How much space do I have?
- ✓ Always read over your article at least twice, do a spell check, and make sure all unusual words, names, website addresses, phone numbers and place names are correct.
- ✓ What exactly do I want to include/exclude?
- ✓ What is my deadline?
- ✓ Make notes on the structure of the article - the main points of the story you wish to get across, and in what order. And cross them off as you write them.
- ✓ Don't vary from the word count suggested, at least not by more, or less, than 50 words.

Tips to writing features:

- Look at your chosen theme carefully. Consider the questions suggested and attempt to answer some of them.
- Always try to find an original angle, or hook, for your feature. Because features allow you more freedom, you have an opportunity to be more adventurous.
- Start with the important - get all the essential details in the opening paragraphs.
- Use plenty of quotes. If they are not quotes you gathered yourself, make sure you detail the source of where they are from.
- As with news, include all the essential details - the who, what, where, when and why.

Rent crisis: Will we ever find a home?

by Catherine Murphy

Someone will take it because they're no choice

An apartment so bad she thought it was a prank, cancelled viewings and being pitted against other desperate renters

Clara and her boyfriend both have full-time jobs but she reveals the tortuous process they face in a rental market gone mad

It just seems to be one knock after another

We didn't get far, most applications are ignored

Just €49 a month for 12 months

Bring your home to life

Call 0800 000 000

By now, the writing is on the wall — or at least it's on the World Cup wallchart

by David Lynch

World Cup wallchart

More the merrier with 48 teams

Fast forward is finally dropped

You might also call it a 'giant of the world'

Life's looking good after road rescue

Deadly bird

MY PET

COUNTRY MATTERS

Health special

They're the drugs that combat the rarest of diseases. But they're so specialised that their price tags are increasingly putting them out of reach. How much longer will Irish patients continue to miss out on such medicines?

Billion dollar ORPHANS

By Susan Mitchell

There is a widespread perception that new drugs will only be made available to those patients who can afford the cost. The industry's motto, 'The patient's best interest', is often used to justify the high prices. But the medicines watchdog, the European Medicines Agency, says that the industry's motto is 'The patient's best interest'.

The Sunday Business Post

lan Gilder Will International Paper win on Smurfit Kappa?

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Photojournalism



Keelin Molloy, Veronica Hanrahan, Kissandra O' Shea pictured 2018 Press Pass Awards. Photo by Andres Poveda,

Learn from last year's winner



Photo by Veronica Hanrahan, Colaiste Mhuire, Ennis

STRIKE A POSE

An unfolding event, a portrait of modern Ireland, human emotion, a stunning landscape, a study of wildlife, children jumping on a trampoline, someone catching a fish — it really is a personal opinion as to what makes a good photograph.

More often than not it is simply a case of being in the right place at the right time — with a camera in hand, of course. Nowadays using a camera is much more simplified. With the automated features in pocket cameras and on phones, it really is a case of point and shoot.

Photographs communicate information in a powerful way and the key to analysing or reading the information a photograph communicates is simple. We use specific questions to decode, evaluate, and respond to photographic images.

When looking at a photograph we need to consider not only the content of the photograph but the intent of the photographer. It is important to think consciously and critically and to pay attention to all aspects of the image.



Photo: HAND MAID IN DUBLIN by Laura Hutton



SCRUM TIME by Dan Sheridan



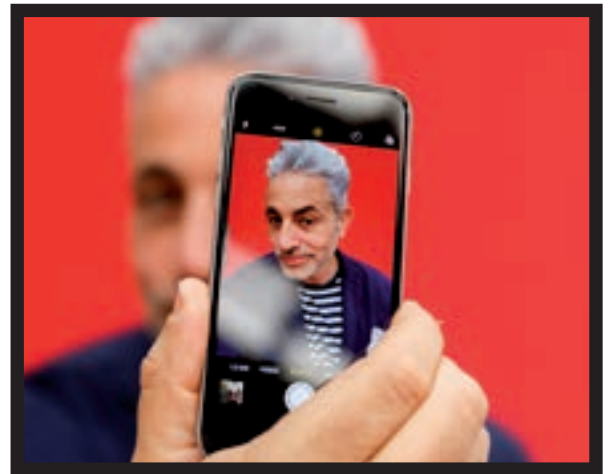
LIGHTHOUSE LEAP by Dara Mac Dónaill

Tips to taking a better picture



- Move in closer - fill the frame for a better shot.
- Be quick, and always be ready to take your shot as things change in front of you.
- Photograph the same subject from different angles and distances to get the best effect.
- Where is the light coming from? See how it affects your picture and think about how you can make the most of the light you have.
- Emphasise your main subject and avoid any unnecessary distractions.
- You have a maximum file size of 3MB for entries - you might also consider having a minimum size of 1 MB to make sure your photo is big enough.

HOLDING THE PARTY LINE by Gerry Mooney



'Bragger' by Andres Poveda



Murmuration Cloud by Cyril Byrne



STRONG RIGHT
by Stephen McCarthy



TAKE AWAY LUNCH IN THE GREEN
by Cyril Byrne

Comment is free, but never easy

MARTIN'S FAREWELL
by Mark Marlow



Facts are sacred, comment is free. So said the fabled editor of the Manchester Guardian, CP Scott, around the start of the last century.

This dictum has been handed down through generations of newspapers, usually interpreted as a shot across the bows of those who would comment rather than report.

In the near century since Scott's heyday, comment has been elevated within the pages of newspapers, but today, in the internet age, his dictum has more relevance than ever. The web is choc-a-bloc with comment, much of it little more than top of the head opinion, the kind of stuff that would have Scott spinning in his grave.

For those of us who do write opinion

pieces in newspapers, there is a lot more required than just the capacity to have an opinion.

The first tool of the opinion writer should be the ability to write. You may have a subject that is difficult to sustain.

On these days, the reader might derive enjoyment from reading something that is well written.

Our old friends the facts are sacred in comment. For opinion to hold any water it must be based on fact. For example, if you are arguing that the Government is doing a terrible job, then facts require that you back up such a contention.

Opinion poll results, policies that have had a devastating impact on some people, the performance of leading politicians, all of

these must be analysed in furthering such an argument, and facts must be sprinkled throughout the offering. Never, ever rely on the web for your facts, for if you do, you will fail, if not today, then certainly in the near future.

Experience is a good ally for the opinion writer. In order to garner opinions you must have some knowledge of the way things work, such as politics, the courts, areas like planning or education. If you have a reasonably good knowledge then you are aware when something is not right, and your passion is ready to be fired up.

Comment may indeed be free, but when it's done properly, it certainly isn't easy.



There is a difference between fact and opinion

News is fact - opinion is your point of view. If teachers vote to go on strike, news is the account of what they did. Opinion is your view on their decision - good or bad. The views expressed are your own. They may not be shared by everyone, but they are how you feel about the teachers going on strike, whether you think they are right or wrong, the effects the strike may have on you and other students.

But the key is to say something only if you have something to say. There is no point sitting on the fence. Be provocative, stir a few emotions, ruffle a few feathers. There is nothing better than a good rant, once you can back up your argument. Never try to be controversial for the sake of it.



Over to you...

- Newspapers are as much about views as news. Can you distinguish between the two? Select some examples.
- Choose an opinion piece from one of the papers supplied. What interests you? Write your own version.
- Look at the letters page in one of the papers supplied. Choose one that you agree/disagree with? Outline why.
- Compare and contrast how broadsheet and tabloid papers handle comment. Which do you prefer? Why?
- Write a letter to the editor in not more than 400 words.

6 Eighth Amendment

Liberalism has won in a mature, functioning democracy

Colin Murphy The pro-life movement has strengths that liberal Ireland would do well to respect, but its high communal standards are harsh on individuals

THE PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT has strengths that liberal Ireland would do well to respect, but its high communal standards are harsh on individuals. The movement's strength lies in its ability to mobilise a large number of people around a common cause. This is a strength that the liberal establishment in Ireland has often overlooked. The liberal establishment has been too busy looking at the individual rights of the individual to see the power of the community. The liberal establishment has been too busy looking at the individual rights of the individual to see the power of the community. The liberal establishment has been too busy looking at the individual rights of the individual to see the power of the community.

Clergy's silence on Eighth speaks volumes

The Catholic hierarchy's reticence in the referendum debate would have been unthinkable in the 1980s

Michael Sheehy Priests at the forefront of the debate

THE CATHOLIC HIERARCHY'S reticence in the referendum debate would have been unthinkable in the 1980s. The hierarchy's silence speaks volumes about the state of the Church in Ireland. The hierarchy's silence speaks volumes about the state of the Church in Ireland. The hierarchy's silence speaks volumes about the state of the Church in Ireland.

WE MANY
IRISH BUSINESSES BECOME PROFITABLE

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HARD WORK WE DO
WE HAVE WON THE BEST ALL STAR BRAND AND
BEST CEO AWARDS AT THE ALL IRELAND BUSINESS
SUMMIT - PUT SIMPLY - WE ARE OVER THE MOON

MARC O'DWYER | CEO - BIG RED CLOUD

“The Catholic Church is in a state of very rapid decline”

big

JENNIFER O'CONNELL

Mother's Day cards turn women with children into bland one-dimensional figures

I'm looking at Mother's Day cards for my mother. I'm not exactly inspired. Mothers, in the world of Hallmark, are nurturing, self-sacrificing, unthreatening. They love bunny rabbits, lavender and bouquets of flowers in sunlit, lush hues. They exist only as a reflection of their greatest creation, and that, of course, is the person whose signature is scrawled across the inside. You were always there, they read. You give us much.

"Happy Mother's Day," exclaims one I found on the internet, "You're Greatest Teacher, my Best Friend and my Cheapest Therapist."

None of them apply to my own mother. She is nurturing and kind, and yes, she offers free therapy on occasion. But these aren't the most interesting things about her. She's also creative, strong, feminist. Impeccably stylish. Whip-smart. A baker of scones and cakes. She used to coax deaf children out of their silent world. She still has a Sherlock Holmes like ability to read human behaviour.

None of them apply to me, not unless there's some out there praising mediocre cooking skills, unrequited laundry mountains and excellent bedtime stories. None of them apply to any mother I know.

Mother's Day cards do one thing well: they reflect the way we sanitise motherhood, turning women who have children into bland, one-dimensional figures, whose worth is measured in a currency of sacrifice and self-immolation.

That is the most shocking thing about becoming a mother, the violent evisceration of your previous identity. No one warns you about this until it happens because we're not supposed to mind. We choose this. It's a gift, they say, the subtext being that you don't mean about a gift.

Motherhood, the same people gush, is the most important job in the universe. And yet there are no university degrees leading to the transition from that life to this, no night classes, not even a real handbook. Instead there are books with titles that suggest children are animals to be subjugated and bent to our will: *Twaddle Taming*, *Daily Whippersnapper*, *The Contented Little Baby Book*. I read, much too late, that Gina Ford never had children.

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“The views expressed are your own. They may not be shared by everyone, but they are how you feel.”

PAT FLANAGAN

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He put himself knowledge in the way of Brive danger



ME TOO!

By Alisha Shanagher

Our Lady's School, Terenure

I am writing this for the girl in front of me on the bus, who edges away from the old man beside her when his hand slides along her thigh. I see your head lower in shame as everyone watches, but no one speaks up to defend you. I silently plead with you to crush his creeping fingers between your legs. Give him a mark so shameful that he can never lay those hands on anybody else.

For my friends trying to hold their heads high when the boys hurl insults like stones from across the road. I know that sometimes these names are more familiar than our own, and we all wish we could fade into the brick walls behind us. But you are so much more than blind catcalls at four o'clock on a Tuesday afternoon. You are vibrant, and loud. Your sharp tongue is the most powerful weapon in your arsenal. Do not be afraid to open fire.

For the girls I see at every party and disco I have ever been to. It doesn't matter how short your skirt was, or how much you had to drink. What matters is that

Learn from last year's winner



this night was supposed to be your movie moment, a snapshot of your teenage years to look back on when everything else fades away. Instead you spend it with a feeling in the pit of your stomach that none of this is right, but he is so overpowering that sometimes it seems he fills the whole room. You forget how to say stop. Do not let this be the end. Don't build a tower to lock yourself away. You were brought into this world kicking and screaming. Never stop.

For the men that eyed us up like women when we were barely girls, and the songs they write about the damage they will do when we finally turn 18. For the boys outside the frat house chanting "No means Yes". For the President who will get elected no matter where we wants to grab me. I hope the next woman you look at carries a switchblade in her bra, just for you. I hope she carves that smile you tormented her for into your side so you never forget her name.

For house keys wedged between my fingers when I walk alone at night. For my headphones, my clenched fists, the streetlights on a main road. Thank you for being my oldest and dearest friends, for making sure I always get home safely.

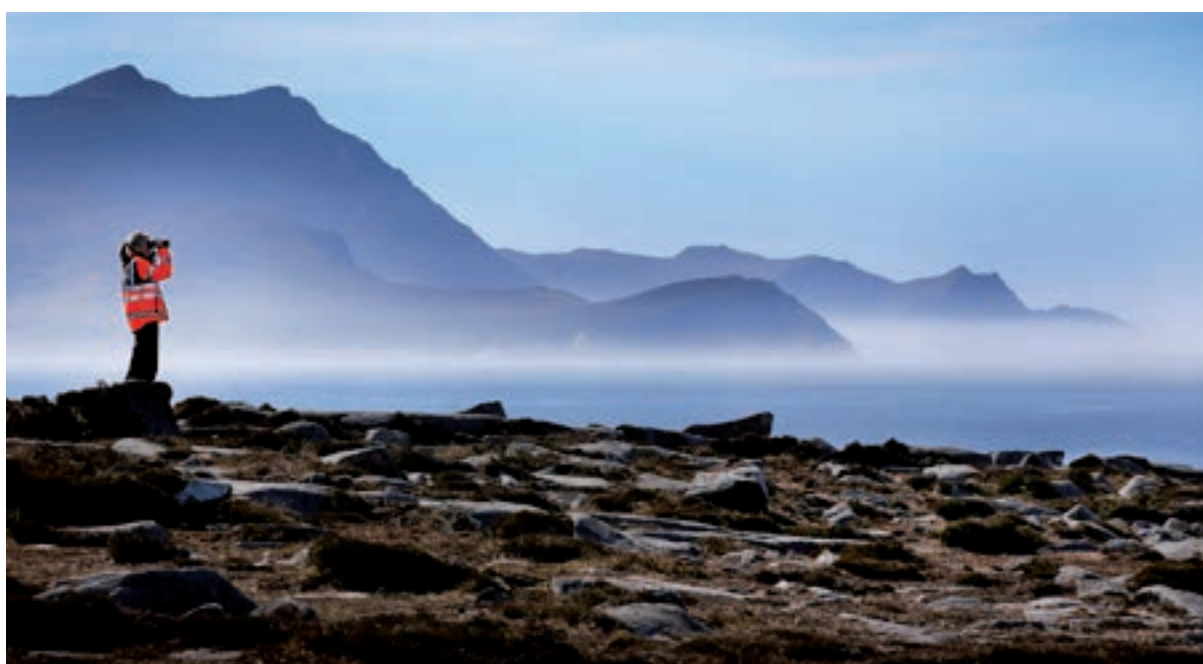
For the boy who stands in the shadows, too afraid of what everyone will think to make his voice heard, I see you. You matter.

For the people desperately dusting their skin to figure out who has left all of these fingerprints. Your silence was not consent.

For the women who will never get to read this, because their stories ended in the darkest part of the club, behind the bins, or in their own homes. I am still searching for you in everybody that passes me on the street.

For everyone who has had 'no' erased from their vocabulary, who has been made to feel like their body was no longer theirs to own,

Me too



What makes a good sports journalist?

The ingredients that make a sports reporter are similar to that of a decent stew. An unorthodox comparison, but bear with us! No one dominant component brings about that delectable flavour, more a combination of everything flung into the pot. A good sports reporter possesses every kind of spice you will find in a kitchen cabinet, and more.

You can write, sure, but can you investigate? Can you sniff out a back page lead? Can you ask the hard questions? Can you go where no one else is willing to go? Above everything else, are you willing to do all of the above?

Many exceptional writers didn't or don't have the work ethic to cut it. Sports reporting does not entail sitting at your desk, waxing lyrically about your favourite soccer team.

Heck, most sports reporters have never seen the inside of an office. You are on the beat all day, every day and you have to know how to utilise that. If Henry Shefflin is cutting the tape on some new clubhouse in the middle of nowhere, get yourself there and ask him how long his injury will keep him out of action.

Come away with a story. Objectivity is another important rule. Credit where credit is due and likewise, criticise when criticism is called for. Last, but by no means least, a good sports reporter is one who is prepared to start at the bottom and work their way up.

Ewan MacKenna and Vincent Hogan all started somewhere and you can be sure it wasn't on the pages of this country's most respected national newspapers. All-Ireland finals and Six Nations clashes are covered by those with years of experience. Be prepared for U10 soccer games and schools camogie finals. The path ahead is long and winding, but know that when you eventually reach the summit, the view is out of this world.



AFTER THE BATTLE by Dan Sheridan



Tips to becoming the best

Sport is news

Sports writers work to some of the tightest deadlines in journalism and are still expected to uphold all the same professional, legal and ethical standards, so having that solid foundation of what it means to be a reporter is fundamental. Sports reporting could take a journalist anywhere.

Read everything

If you want to end up as a sports journalist or, to be honest, any type of journalist, listen to the radio, monitor Twitter, watch TV, read the papers with as professional an eye as you can.

Follow the best in the business. Look at what they are doing.

Absorbing the styles and techniques of the best writers will not only help to influence your writing style and structure but also help to develop that eye for a story, of what is newsworthy and how to pursue it.



Over to you...

- Interview a local sporting hero. Invite them to visit your class for a questions and answers session.
- Write up a match report. Go to a game of your choice, take notes, try and get a few quotes and write up your account of what happened.
- Monitor and track a live game on the web or on Twitter. Record your account.
- Interview a well known sports reporter/columnist /editor. Talk to them about their job, how they became involved in journalism, their loves/hates etc.

Tips to becoming the best

Get the skills

The skills and knowledge employed by journalists are exactly the same as for sports journalists. The basics are the basics no matter which area of journalism you're in: speed, accuracy, diligence, hard work.

Get the experience

What potential employers are looking for is evidence on a CV that you have the motivation that journalism requires.

If you're offered work experience, don't just sit in the corner looking at the internet. Go to the editors and ask: What can I do?

Finding a niche or a specialism can make the difference in a competitive world because if you can show that you are as knowledgeable as anyone else in your field – be it tennis, golf, Formula 1 or football – then you have more chance of getting commissioned or getting that first job.





Kevin Kilbane, Irish Pride

By Rory Cassidy
Bridgetown College, Wexford

Learn from last year's winner

Preston, England. 17-Year-Old Kevin Kilbane is engrossed in learning Amhran na bhFiann with the support of his cousin. He is conscious that if he is going to pull on the green jersey in front of thousands at Lansdowne Road he needs to know the lyrics. Fast forward two years and Kilbane is making his Irish debut in Reykjavik.

Growing up in Preston in the 1980's, all Kevin ever wanted to do was play for Ireland. He spent hours on the streets practising football, wearing his Irish shirt. He was the first generation of his family to be born across the pond and that always lingered with him. As a youngster, Kilbane rejected the chance to play for England. He was aware it wasn't the future in international football he had in mind although at the time he hadn't been offered the chance to play for Ireland.

Throughout a noteworthy career Kevin handled many questions about his cultural identity. At the time the media in England branded players such as Kilbane, Jason McAteer and Matt Holland as 'Plastic Paddys'. It is evident that Kevin has a genuine grá for Irish



culture. He is often pictured in his Mayo jersey and supports his beloved county regularly. He works here, he lives here and in my mind and his mind, he is without question Irish.

'It just brought everything back from when I was a boy watching Euro 88, Italia 90 and USA 94 that this was where I always wanted to be. That's what I always dreamed of becoming: an international footballer'. In 1997, Kilbane played his first senior game against Iceland in a 4-2 win. Kevin affectionately remembers hearing the anthem for the first time and donning

the green shirt as an 'incredible feeling' and one that he would like to bottle permanently. He revealed to me that he feels that game 'shaped him' as an international player.

The pinnacle of Kevin's career was undoubtedly representing Ireland in the 2002 World Cup. Kevin felt 'overwhelming pride' knowing his family were in the stadium. It was his childhood dream and it had finally come true.

Unfortunately, that infamous night in Saint-Denis will live long in Kevin's mind for all the

wrong reasons. With a place in the 2010 World Cup and Ireland dominating, chaos unfolded. That defeat after the Henry handball fiasco still pains Kevin today. 'To lose that playoff in that manner certainly still hurts'.

Kevin was always emotional when he heard Amhran na bhFiann. 'I always thought about my family and what it would have meant for one of them if they could have had the opportunity to represent their country'.

I felt a remarkable connection to Kevin during this interview. His immense pride to be Irish is something we can all aspire to have. When 17 year old Kilbane was learning the anthem at home in Preston he would've only dreamed of having such an illustrious career. He followed his passion, you can too.





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