



The Full Crafted News Package

Essentials:

- ❖ Voice-over
- ❖ Piece to Camera
- ❖ Interviews
- ❖ Footage/Rushes

News report duration 1:15 – 1:45

Feature duration 3 mins to 5 mins (anything longer is too difficult to edit on a mobile)

Rushes:

- If you are filming for a 1.15 – 1.45 news package you need around 5 minutes of rushes. Again change the shots every 4 seconds, avoid panning (up and down/left and right), and let the movement happen in the shot and not with the camera.
 - You must get an establishing shot (the wide) of everything you are talking about, then close ups and SUPER CLOSE UPS.
1. This is the most difficult format to master, but once you have – you can compete with the best. It is the most complicated that I teach and used for long and short form features and news reports.
 2. Write to pictures – that means don't say what you see. "This chocolate ice cream has just won a top award" For example you could say "As it melts, you want to taste – this unsurprisingly is an award winner"
 3. Write your script before filming but be flexible, if you end up getting a better shot or better interview than you had planned, use it. It is important to be flexible.
 4. Always have in mind the footage you want to get, but keep an eye out for those magic moments.
 5. Always start your short or long form feature with your best shot or interview
 6. Interview soundbite needs to be 10 – 35 seconds
 7. PTC (piece to camera) needs to be 10 – 25 seconds and contain something that is NOT in the interview or voice over. Something that is visually hard to capture can be good content for the piece to camera. Such as statistics.
 8. Eye line: for the piece to camera YOU LOOK into the camera. For the contributor they look at you (see soundbite framing on handout) not directly into the camera.
 9. An opening piece to camera or an ending piece to camera is a good place to start for beginners – and use the BIGVU autocue so you have no stress trying to remember it.
 10. You always need an interview ideally TWO, i.e. a case study, someone affected, along with a professional. For example, the mother of a student who goes to a school, along with the head teacher at the school. Or someone who is homeless,





along with the manager of a local homeless hostel, or spokesperson for a homeless charity.

11. Change the shots every three seconds, and remember WIDE, MID, CLOSE UP. Let the movement happen in the shot not by moving the camera.

Once you have written your script, you can think about the kind of shots you need. So for the script below you will need the following.

- **Wide shot to show the distance between the island and the shore**
- **Film walkers if they are around. (As it is a public place you do not have to ask permission but do not film children)**
- **Get right up close to the shore line and film the sea coming in**
- **Get close ups of all the warning signs around the start of the walk**
- **Screen record the RNLI shots from YouTube, or go to the RNLI website. But ask permission if you can use them. They may want a credit on screen**
- **Look for an aerial shot of Sully Island online, but again check if it is copyright free**

Example:

CODE:

VO –voice over

PTC – piece to camera

INT – interview with case study (someone who has been affected)

INT – interview with someone talking on behalf of an organisation in an official capacity (ie RNLI Spokesperson)

VO: This is Sully Island in the Vale of Glamorgan – it is 400 yards off the cost of the Bristol Channel.

To get to it, you have to wait for the tide to go out. **(Pause voice over for one second and listen to the sound of the waves)**

But the Bristol channel has the second highest tidal range in the world at 15 metres, so many people have been caught out.

A third of all call outs this year from the RNLI station in nearby Penarth are to the island to rescue stranded walkers.

PTC: This traffic light system, lets people know when they can cross and have enough time to return. So at the moment it says.....

We spoke to Anna Brees a local resident about the time she got stranded.

INT –

VO: The message from the lifeboat station is to always call and never try to walk back through the water.

NAME OF REPORTER for Penarth Social Media TV.



