

## Reporting and Writing the News

Every day exciting things happen. For example, there might be an important meeting in your town or a special event at your school. Journalists, or reporters, go to these events and write articles for newspapers, magazines, and television news programs. They report the news so everyone can read and understand what's going on in their communities or in the world. Read to find out what journalists do.

Journalists report and write the news. Most reporters show up at meetings, parades, and other events. They always carry a notebook and lots of pencils or pens. Some journalists also carry cameras if they are responsible for taking photographs.

Journalists write down everything they see, hear, smell, and feel. It is important for them to make sure the facts are accurate. Sometimes reporters write about people who do things that are wrong.

If a reporter writes something about a person that is incorrect and the person turns out to be innocent, or not guilty, he or she must fix the mistake. As a result, the editor of the newspaper will ask the reporter to write a sentence or a new story to correct it.

Journalists are good at getting people to talk. Sometimes it is easier for the reporter to illustrate why something is happening by asking people who are at an event to explain what is going on and why. This helps the readers understand the story better.

After taking notes, the reporter goes back to his or her office to write



the story. Many journalists read through their notes first and check their facts. Then they write the article. If there are photographs, the reporter writes captions that give their readers more information. Sometimes the story must be written quickly because it is due to run in the next day's newspaper. No matter how quickly the story must be written, it is the journalist's job to get the facts right. Once the story is finished, it goes to the editor.

The editor reads the story and corrects mistakes in grammar and spelling. The editor also makes sure the article is written in a way that readers can understand. Once the story is edited, it is ready to be printed in the newspaper or put online on the newspaper's website.

The journalist's job does not end there. Every day there are more stories to write. There are more people to interview and events to report on. A good journalist works very hard to make sure his or her stories are interesting and true.

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