

**Module 11: Contemporary Voices**  
**Topic 5 Content: Feature Stories**



Feature Stories

## Module 11: Contemporary Voices

### Topic 5 Content: Feature Stories

A photograph of a young woman with dark hair, wearing a grey sweater and a thick, textured purple scarf. She is sitting at a wooden desk, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. On the desk in front of her is a blue mug, a rolled-up yellow document, and some papers. The background is a plain blue wall.

**Feature Stories**

- Focus on specific people, places, and events that most people are interested in
- Are factual and supported by research and interviews
- Are descriptive, thoughtful, colorful, and reflective
- Examples:
  - History of the championship
  - Profiles of coaches or athletes
  - Highlights of struggles
  - Game commentary

**Feature stories** are human-interest stories. That is to say that they focus on specific people, places, and events that most people are interested in or want to know more about. These stories are factual and supported by research and interviews. However, they are more than just the hard facts (*who, what, when, where, why, and how*). Features are descriptive, thoughtful, colorful, and reflective. They go deeper than the facts by explaining the most interesting or important elements of a topic.

The world of sports is a common source of feature stories where you may have already seen examples. Before a major sporting event such as a championship or play-off game, a television station often airs pre-game coverage that is full of small feature stories. These stories could cover a variety of topics such as the history of the championship game, profiles of the team coaches or athletes, highlights of the struggles of key players in the game, and commentary as to what a win would mean for each team or franchise.

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News Story	Feature Story
Reports only the facts and is completed under a hard deadline	Have the space and time to conduct extensive research

**Popular Types of Feature Stories**

- Human Interest
- Profiles
- How-To
- Historical Features
- Seasonal Themes
- Behind the Scenes



News stories are typically short in comparison to feature stories, which is to be expected. A news story reports only the facts and is typically completed under a hard deadline. News reporters do not have time to go too in depth on a breaking news story. They need to get the basic facts, write them up, and get the story out quickly. However, feature story writers typically have the space and time to conduct extensive research to fill in the details around the facts.

There are many kinds of feature stories. Here are some popular types:

- **Human Interest:** The best-known kind of feature story is the human-interest story that discusses issues through the experiences of another.
- **Profiles:** A very common type of feature is the profile that reveals an individual's character and lifestyle. The profile exposes different facets of the subject so readers feel they know the person.
- **How-To:** These articles help people learn by telling them how to do something.
- **Historical Features:** These features commemorate important dates in history or turning points in a nation's social, political, and cultural development. They offer a useful juxtaposition of then and now.
- **Seasonal Themes:** Stories about holidays and the change of seasons address matters at specific times of a year. For instance, they cover life milestones; social, political and cultural cycles; and business cycles.
- **Behind the Scenes:** Inside views of unusual occupations, issues, and events give readers a feeling of penetrating the inner circle. Readers like feeling privy to unusual details and well-kept secrets about procedures or activities they might not ordinarily be exposed to or allowed to participate in.