Nine and Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) present Front Page: the news of the future – schools competition for all Australian primary and secondary school students. The competition is designed to encourage Australian students to write and design their own school newspaper that reflects the changing landscape of media and publishing. The layout and design of the newspaper should reflect an idea of what a school newspaper of the future could look like.

Curriculum links

The FRONT PAGE schools newspaper competition is relevant to many areas of the Australian Curriculum, specifically:

- **MEDIA ARTS** in the Australian Curriculum – Years 4–10 and, specifically Years 9 and 10 Content
- **VISUAL ARTS** in the Australian Curriculum – Years 4–10
- **ENGLISH** in the Australian Curriculum – Years 4–10 Language, specifically, Language for interaction; Expressing and developing ideas; Text structure and organization; and Literacy, specifically, Texts in context; Interacting with others; Interpreting, analyzing, evaluating; and Creating texts
- **HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES** in the Australian Curriculum – Years 4–10, the Key ideas of all strands but specifically those in Years 7–10 History and Civics and citizenship
- **SCIENCE** in the Australian Curriculum – Years 4–10, specifically those in Science as a Human Endeavour and Science Inquiry Skills
- **TECHNOLOGIES** in the Australian Curriculum – Years 4–10, specifically those in Design and Technology and Digital Technologies
- **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION** in the Australian Curriculum – Years 4–10, specifically those in Personal, Social and Community Health and Digital Technologies

The FRONT PAGE schools newspaper competition is also relevant to many curriculum areas in the senior secondary school years in all states, especially English, Media, Visual Arts, Social Sciences, Technology and Science. It has much cross-curriculum relevance and could also be used in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) Exhibition and Middle Years Programme (MYP) Project.

**HOW TO ENTER**

Visit frontpage.online to enter.

All rules, guidelines and additional information about Front Page are available on the website.

**HOW TO ACCESS YOUR DIGITAL NEWSPAPER**

Upon entering the competition, please email Courtney Harvey (courtney.harvey@fairfaxmedia.com.au) with your school’s IP address and your school will then be provided access to the digital newspaper of The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. Access will be supplied via a link which can then be shared with the entire school.

Any teacher, student or staff member connected to the IP will have unlimited access.
Learning outcomes

The study guides are intended to assist teachers in supporting their students as they work collaboratively to produce a newspaper for the Front Page competition. Activities in the guide are linked to studying the way news is created and presented by Fairfax Media platforms. The structure and content of newspapers and the importance of journalism are two of the guide’s features. Specifically, this guide is written to develop students’ knowledge and skills to assist them in producing their own newspapers. It may assist students to:

1. Demonstrate some understanding of the historical context of newspapers in Australia;
2. Develop an awareness of key Nine news conventions and news-makers that have a significant impact on Australian audiences and culture;
3. Develop an appreciation of Australian stories created by Nine journalism;
4. Read newspapers as historic and cultural documents;
5. Think critically about the construction of news and journalism;
6. Collaborate with others to create a school newspaper;
7. Demonstrate insight into the place of Nine news platforms in Australian culture.

Teacher advice

The FRONT PAGE schools competition is pitched at three audience groups – a primary audience of Year 4–6 students, and, two secondary school audience groups – Years 7–9 and Years 10–12. Although the competition is open to all students in those years across all subjects, it may be best suited to students’ studies in English, Visual and Media Arts, Humanities and Social Science. It is anticipated that teachers will use the study guides in part or full to complement the creation of the student newspaper for competition submission.

Beyond FRONT PAGE the study guides could be used as part of a broader study of media literacy, and the way newspapers and journalism contribute to public discourses. The study guides include information and suggestions for a range of activities, discussions and further research about newspapers and journalism, industry professionals and individual news texts. Teachers may select from the information, extension activities and reference material and modify activities to suit their curriculum context, syllabus and students. Teachers may also determine in what forms (spoken, written, multi-modal, individually or in small or class groups) pre-competition activities are developed.

Teachers are advised to act as an ‘editor-in-chief’ to oversee and direct students as they work to create their newspaper for submission to the FRONT PAGE schools competition. They can also guide students about who to and how to collaborate with, gather information and select design programs, software and hardware depending on individual school structures, contexts and resources. When the articles are edited, design students can either use Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop or any other suitable program to put the sections of the school newspaper together. Ideally, the final assembly will be done in InDesign and an interactive PDF will be created by the students.

Competition specifications

The primary school student newspaper must be at least four A3 portrait pages as an interactive PDF.

The secondary schools student newspaper must be at least eight A3 portrait pages as an interactive PDF.

Accompanying photographs and video clips should be embedded in the interactive PDF.

Final submission will be as an interactive PDF uploaded to the competition website.

Competition closing date

6 SEPTEMBER 2019
What is news?

What constitutes as news varies from person to person, culture to culture. News has no single definition but there are essential elements that make something newsworthy, including:

• It is new information that people do not know.
• It is true, accurate and fair.
• It matters; it is important and relevant.
• It is in the public interest.
• It is interesting and unusual.
• It is independent.

News can be found in all sorts of ways and places, including:

• Unplanned events, such as natural disasters, attacks, accidents
• Planned activities such as events, news conferences, announcements, visits
• Journalists’ own efforts, interests and contacts.

‘Hard news’ stories have the facts up front and usually involve a specific event.

‘Soft news’ stories usually expand on ‘human interest’ stories by giving readers more detailed understanding.

News stories are prioritised according to what is considered to be most important and what has an immediate effect on the majority of people. ‘Big news’ stories are covered at the front or top of the news and ‘set the agenda’ for further reporting.

Activity

1. What appeals to one reader may not be interesting to another. How do you define news?
2 History of newspapers

Newspapers have existed since the invention of the printing press. They are the oldest form of media as they documented daily life, giving people access to important information from all over the world. They became primary sources for historians, especially as newspapers flourished in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. This makes journalists the history’s first responders for the past two centuries.

Once known as the ‘fourth estate’ that had an important impact on the democratisation of education and the spread of knowledge throughout the world, newspapers were seen as necessary for thriving, civil societies.

As different companies published newspapers, varying styles, and social and political values developed. Broadsheets became known for their long-form articles and investigative reports while the smaller ‘tabloid’ newspapers became known for more sensational news reporting. In the later part of the twentieth century company takeovers worldwide reduced the amount of newspapers.

Once, multiple editions of papers were printed in a day but with competition from radio and television news media, afternoon newspapers ceased to exist or merged with morning editions.

Nevertheless, advertising, especially in the form of ‘classifieds’ known as ‘rivers of gold’ sustained newspapers as profitable companies.

In the 1990s, with the world on the brink of the digital revolution, the death of the printed newspaper was predicted. Newspapers transformed into multimedia companies to deliver news and compete in the online world of advertising and news distribution.

In the new millennium newspaper companies continue to provide news to audiences in many different ways and even though resources have shrunk, the printed newspaper still exists.

Activity

1. As is noted above its masthead, The Age was first published in Melbourne in 1854. What is the oldest Australian newspaper? What is the most established newspaper in the world?

2. Identify the way newspapers have changed in recent times by comparing the reflections expressed in the two articles by journalist Martin Flanagan.

3. Research the history of newspapers to discover how many existed, say fifty years ago compared to the amount that are published today.

4. Find out where the term ‘press’ as in a ‘press conference’ comes from.

5. Where are newspapers such as The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age printed?

6. What do the terms ‘broadsheet’, ‘tabloid’ and ‘compact’ mean?
**What is a newspaper?**

Newspapers are daily publications that have a recognisable structure and sections which readers are expecting to find.

Content is divided into local news reports, world news, special features, business, sport, entertainment and comment sections. Headlines, editorials, letters to editors, opinion pieces, puzzles, cartoons, photographs and feature articles are just some of the regular items found in a newspaper.

Other things that can be found are reviews, comic strips, quizzes and puzzles, obituaries, profiles, weather information, sports results, public notices, advertisements and much more.

Newspapers have some conventions for layout that identify them as different from printed or digital magazines or books. Front pages are designed to be as eye-catching as possible with the identifying title, the ‘masthead’ at the top followed by a ‘headline’, colourful photograph with ‘caption’ and articles laid out in ‘columns’. Content is organised into sections throughout newspaper. The back page typically contains lead sports news.

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**Activity**

1. With a partner, look through a hardcopy or online PDF page of a newspaper and list all the different content you can find in it.

2. Look at the newspaper front page (on the next page) and identify the following:
   - The newspaper title
   - The newspaper motto
   - The lead story
   - The headline
   - The publication date
   - The weather forecast for that day
   - The ‘odd spot’ story
   - Two ‘inside’ stories
   - A journalist and their subject field
   - A photographer
   - The news website
   - The cost of the newspaper

3. Newspaper lotto. Use another page of a newspaper to identify an example of each of the following:
   - **Headline**
   - **Copy**
   - **By-line**
   - **Caption**
   - **Graphic**
   - **Pull quote**
   - **Sub-headline**
   - **Cartoon**
   - **Masthead**
   - **Photo credit**
   - **Column**
   - **Jump line**
   - **Date**
   - **Lead**

Now create your own definitions for each newspaper convention.
Gen dry: teens sober up

By Anna Rawson

Today's teenagers are drinking less, smoking less and using other drugs, in a change that some health experts say is "nothing short of remarkable." A study looking into the habits of teenagers aged 15-19 has observed an alarming drop in rates of alcohol consumption and smoking from 2003.

"It's a new, post-boozing generation," says John Poulton, who is a psychologist at the University of Melbourne. "The older generation was often dominated by the idea of the bottomless beer can, and now it's more about being in control and having a drink at the end of the day, not the start.

The results also showed a significant decrease in the use of other drugs, such as cannabis and methamphetamine. "It's a positive trend, and it's something we should be celebrating," says Poulton.

The study, which was conducted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, found that the proportion of teenagers who had consumed alcohol in the past month had dropped from 66% in 2003 to 47% in 2018. Smoking rates had also fallen, with 13% of 15-year-olds now smoking daily, compared to 21% in 2003.

"It's a rare, post-boozing generation," says Poulton. "There's a shift in the way we think about alcohol, and it's something we should be celebrating. It's a positive trend, and it's something we should be celebrating."
4 Why is journalism important?

With the move to online newspapers, calls for 'quality' journalism have increased. The role of journalists and the news media is one that many argue is crucial to a healthy democracy.

Once referred to as the ‘fourth estate’ – a sector of society that has significant influence – journalism and the news media explains the world to itself. Journalists report and scrutinise all aspects of our world and both reflect and question many facets of how societies work. Not only do journalists report on situations that individuals may not have access to, they often investigate, critique and challenge on behalf of citizens. In developed democracies, the news media play a vital role in informing the populace on the actions of government and business. It provides ‘checks and balances’ to ensure those in power do not abuse it.

Traditional news gathering has been challenged by the constant 24/7 news cycle created by the immediacy of new technologies, convergence and the dominance of digital platforms. In the new world of ‘citizen journalism’ and blogging anyone can post information or express an opinion on a website or social media. While democracies have benefitted from the contribution of many voices, calls of ‘fake news’ have highlighted the importance of accurate, factual, fair reporting and quality, in-depth journalism. The essential role of journalists has not changed. They still aim to seek out stories, gather information, interview people and research for factual accuracy. And all this happens on a daily basis.

Journalists have clear objectives. Their primary job is to report the truth, in impartial and unbiased ways. In Australia, the journalists union, the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, has a very clear Code of Ethics that all journalist must adhere to:

Respect for truth and the public’s right to information are fundamental principles of journalism. Journalists search, disclose, record, question, entertain, comment and remember. They inform citizens and animate democracy. They scrutinise power, but also exercise it, and should be responsible and accountable.

Activity

1. Using the MEAA Journalist Code of Ethics <https://www.meaa.org/meaa-media/code-of-ethics/> identify the four main values that professional journalists must commit to.
2. Select one of the twelve 'standards' and explain its importance.
4. Investigate a defamation case or a complaint to the Australian Press Council when the ethics or conduct of a journalist where questioned.

Journalists not only report on stories firsthand, they also rely on news agencies to supply stories, especially from across the nation and the world. Reuters, Associated Press and AAP (Australian Associated Press) are three of the most important and traditional news agencies that Australian journalists have twenty-four-hour access to. Many others such as Agence France-Presse (AFP) exist and are also known as news bureaus. We might think of a shop that sells magazines, newspapers and gift cards as a Newsagents but in the world of journalism a news agency is an organisation that collects and sells news reports to subscribing news media companies such as Fairfax. In today’s world of multiple social media platforms, journalists can gather information from so many sources but not all are reliable or trustworthy. The established news agencies such as AAP and Reuters provide guarantees of ‘real’ news when so much ‘fake news’ is spread far and wide.

Activity

1. Look through a hard copy, online or PDF version of a newspaper and identify articles that have used news agencies for their reports. Which ones can you find?
2. News reports are often published in ‘the public interest’. Imagine an Australia where clickbait and trivial content rules, and public-interest journalism has died due to lack of funding. The Australian public would likely be unaware of the following:
   • the exploitation of workers at 7-Eleven
   • the Securycy note-printing bribery scandal; and
   • the maltreatment of inmates at the Don Dale youth prison

These examples are just from the last few years. A complete record of findings by Australian investigative journalists in recent decades would create a list several pages long.

Many of the malpractices revealed in these stories should have been discovered and dealt with. For various reasons, political or financial, they were not. But without in-depth journalism, these issues would still be unknown – and corrupt and dishonest individuals still in their jobs.

Activity

5 ‘Exclusives’:
Breaking news

Stories or reports that are marked as ‘Exclusive’ are unique to the journalists and news organisations that have reported on that story; they are the only ones who have reported on that news and have usually uncovered information via lengthy investigation.

News media organisations require the freedom to serve the interest of the public but also need to respect the privacy of individuals. Why is this balance necessary? How can it be achieved?

Activity

1. On the next page read the ‘exclusive’ report by Madeleine Heffernan, Royce Millar and Clay Lucas as published in *The Age* on 13 January 2018. This report is considered important as indicated by its ‘exclusive’ tag and position on page 2. Explain its importance, especially for the people of Melbourne.

2. Explain the significance of the role played by the reporters in revealing the information in the report.


6 Contents of a newspaper

**HEADLINES**

Headlines are written to capture readers’ attention. They must be brief to fit on pages and succinct to inform. Puns, double meanings, alliteration and catchy words often make up a headline.

**Activity**

1. Find examples of the use of these techniques in any headlines printed in this guide.

2. What do you think makes an effective headline?
Apple ‘gags’ government on square store plans

Tech giant Apple has slapped the Andrews government publicly reiterating plans for its controversial $100 million “flagship” store in Federation Square.

In a week of conflict about the public handling of the controversial project, the government has promised to release concept plans to The Age – detailing Apple’s demolition and construction plans for the site – but then reneged.

Yesterday, the government confirmed Apple had blocked the public release of details of the scheme that triggered a storm of protest when announced by Tourism Minister John Eren days before Christmas.

Patrick Molan, spokesman for Minister for Trade and Investment Philipuddle, said: “Apple is refusing to release the plans and I don’t think that will be changing any time soon, unfortunately.”

The Age understands a contract between Federation Square management and Apple includes a clause giving the company veto over the release of information.

When the government is officially bound by the contract, or if there is another, is unclear. “We can’t discuss commercial contracts and agreements,” said Mr Molan, who was quizzed about whether the government was formally hamstrung under the Apple deal.

But within senior government ranks there is no doubt that Apple has the whip hand at Federation Square. “Apple owns this world; we just live in it,” quipped one senior Andrews government insider.

To date, only scant public information has been made available about the proposed stores, including Apple’s marketing images. Apple did not respond to questions on when the concept plans for Fed Square would be publicly released and why they had not been made.

In his surprise approval of the project, Planning Minister Richard Wynne – who The Age has revealed personally opposed the scheme – bypassed Melbourne City Council, the government’s long-term partner in the conception, development and funding of Federation Square.

Council officers were this week briefed about, but not given, plans. Yesterday councillors were given plans, but in strict confidence.

Councillor and JLP member Jackie Watts said Apple had “doped” the Andrews government.

“Apple was presented with at least one of the development opportunities around the Metro Tunnel redevelopment. And there is going to be massive space under the City Square. Apple rejected it. Who the hell is running this town?” she said.

Councillor Robyn Lopresti, a Greens member, said the secrecy around the Apple deal was unacceptable.

“That the public was deliberately and completely cut out in this instance is extremely worrying, and the public backlash is entirely justified. The elected to won’t put up with this level of secrecy,” she said.

The Age can reveal Apple will pour $100 million into the store, the surrounding public space and a 30 year lease.

Under the agreement, Federation Square’s Yarra building – which houses the Kooringa Heritage Trust – will be demolished and rebuilt.

Apple will pay to keep part of the facade of the demolished Yarra building for possible use as spare parts for the other cultural structures that remain at the site.

Federation Square is one of Melbourne’s top tourist attractions loved by the people of Melbourne visiting each year, but has not made a profit since opening in 2003.

Apple – the maker of iPhones, iPads and Apple TV’s, which had a market value of $US861 billion yesterday – paid $77.27 billion in Australian sales last financial year. It paid a dividend of almost $222 million to the parent, made a profit of just $3.67 billion, and paid $128.5 million in income tax.

Asked about the deal, former Liberal opposition leader John Howard, said governments shouldn’t be doing any favours for multinationals.

“In fact, the whole process for the approval of the Apple store at Federation Square has not been appropriate. The concept plans should have been released as part of an initial public consultation process that allowed the people of Melbourne to comment on the proposed scheme for their square.”

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Madeleine Heffernan
Royce Millar
Clay Lucas

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PHOTOGRAPHS

‘A picture tells a thousand words’. Photographs are powerful storytellers. Although they most often accompany an article and have a caption to explain them, they can give readers so much information in place of words. The contents of a photo as well as the way it has been taken create meaning for readers. Technical codes such as shot and angle type, depth of field, use of filters and lens choice create the look of a photograph. The contents of the photograph create meaning through the use of symbolic codes such as the use of colour, lighting, position of subjects, setting, body language and facial expressions of people as subjects. Any written codes such as captions give more information.

Activity

1. Look at a range of photographs using an online news photo gallery such as <http://www.smh.com.au/national/photography>. What gives photographs such impact?

Activity

   a) Analyse both photographs by identifying the various technical, symbolic and written codes that give information to readers.
   b) What does each add to the news report?
   c) Why do you think the photographer, Jason South, set up the photo in the way he did?
   d) Why are two photographs included in this article?

Want to buy a pub far from the matcha latte crowd?

DECEMBER 29 2017  Carolyn Webb

The historic Kevington Hotel sits in such a quiet pocket of north-eastern Victoria that there is no store, no cafe and – gasp – no mobile phone coverage.

But life at the ‘Kevington Hilton’, built into a curve of Woods Point Road, 45km south of Mansfield, is never dull.

Ever since Wayne and Lyn-Marree Poole took over the 155-year-old hotel 10 years ago, they’ve met a weird and wonderful array of characters.

There was the couple who parked their six camels outside. Which they had walked 1700km, from Ipswich, Queensland.

Or the Frenchwoman leading two donkeys from Mount Hotham to Marysville.

At 3am, on New Year’s Day 2009, a couple knocked on the pub door. They asked Mrs Poole to call a TV animal rescue show to retrieve the dog. Instead she enlisted a local miner, Billy Scott, to abseil down and fetch the pooch. “There was not so much as a thank you.” says Mrs Poole.

Summer is high season at the Kevington, and it could be the Pooles’ last as owners. With regret, they have put the hotel up for sale, because they need a break. They want to spend more time with their disabled son, Joseph, 25, who lives in Wangaratta.

The hotel, originally called Garrett’s Beer House after the family that owned it for 90 years, is the last of dozens of pubs or grog shacks left from the 1860s gold rush.

The nearby Gaffneys Creek Hotel famously was burnt down by two prison escapees and a rogue female prison guard in 1993. One of the escapees, Archie Butterly, later died in a police shootout in the bush.

Mr Poole says after mining died down in the 1990s, the hotel survived well from four wheel drive enthusiasts, hunters, prospectors and fishers. But the nearby A1 Mine re-opened nine years ago, and now has about 80 employees. Some of them fly-in, fly-out from Western Australian mines.

Mr Poole’s grandparents, Clarrie and Elsie Poole and their relatives, owned the pub from 1957 until 1986. He remembers blissful days shooting rabbits and fishing for trout in the Goulburn River that flows right behind the pub with his uncles, and eating his grandmother’s roast beef and homemade pudding.

He says apart from Woods Point Road now being paved, and with a modern kitchen, gas and solar power, not much has changed from those days. It’s not five star. Overnight guests have no TV in the rooms and shared toilets down the outside corridor. Carlton Draught is still on tap.

But there’s plenty of wildlife in the area such as king parrots, wedge tailed eagles and kangaroos, peace and quiet if you want it, or good company in the bar.

“If someone comes along and buys the hotel and continues on in the same tradition, they’ll do very well out of it, and make a lot of friends,” Mr Poole says.

The Kevington Hotel is for sale at $850,000.
What is behind the radio waves from outer space?

Liam Mannix

Fast radio bursts beam from beyond our galaxy, are astonishingly powerful, and nobody knows what - or who - is making them.

An international team of astronomers, including Australian scientists, have made a discovery that could start to unravel the mystery.

In a newspaper, designers work on page layouts and artists produce graphics and illustrations to help present news and information with clarity and immediacy. Using the typical column layout, pages are designed to be attractive, uncluttered and easy to read.

Activity

1. Graphics present information in unique ways. How are they important in the presentation of the news?

2. Identify the ways graphics have been included in the images accompanying the news article ‘What Is Behind the Radio Waves from Outer Space’? How do the graphics assist the readers’ understanding of the story?
News reports are informative articles on important or interesting current events. The beginning of a news article is vital as it provides the most significant details relating to the heart of the story within the first two paragraphs.

Journalists answer the questions Who, What, When, Where, Why and How within their introduction, if not within the first two paragraphs. A news article’s introduction is known as the ‘lead’ and is twenty-five words or less.

A news article is also structured with the most important information at the top of the article and then the least important information is revealed as the article finishes – this structure is called the ‘inverted pyramid’, a technique used to draw the reader into reading the article. A news article also tends to include at least one interview within the piece to assist with the credibility of the context, written by the journalist. If it is an issue that divides opinions, it is recommended that you include an interview from both sides of the story. Remember, the main role of the news journalist is to create an unbiased article, referring to the facts.

Activity

1. Highlight the who, what, when, where and why in each of the news articles supplied in this guide.
2. What is the contention of these news articles?
3. How many sources are used for each article? Is this a balanced news report? Why or why not?
4. If you were the journalist, who else would you interview to enhance this story even further?
5. Is there a specific target audience and/or group of people who would be more interested in this article than others?
6. Practice writing an introduction based on the following events:
   (a) Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios wins his first grand slam event at the Australian Open.
   (b) Three passengers and a driver died last night in a car accident in Seymour.
   (c) A Melbournian claims a A$20 million prize in Tattslotto.
Tarnished Australian beach holiday is a bleak warning of our future climate. Every day we bank, it should be a national priority to halt the hereditary destruction of our beaches and nature.

Some many dreams happen only a few hundred metres from the patrolled area.

The little picture must also be considered

Volunteering

Our little world is inarguably volunteering. Our own situation varies, but it must be noted that many of the “guts and good will” people are the same people who are involved in the national park and environment volunteering.

Our capacity for compassion and empathy is essential for our survival as a species. It is in our nature to care for others and to work together for the common good.

The real worry is here.

In the absence of a leadership trained in the art of compassion and empathy, the world is in peril.

The real worry is here.

In the absence of a leadership trained in the art of compassion and empathy, the world is in peril.

Consider this

Volunteer involvement has been on the rise, but the nature of this involvement is changing. The days of simply signing up for a few hours of work are over. Volunteers are now expected to have a deeper understanding of the issues they are working on and to be able to contribute to the decision-making process.

Come and see for yourself

Volunteering is more than just a way to help others. It is a way to learn about ourselves and our place in the world. It is a way to develop a sense of purpose and to make a positive impact on the world.

Drop these adjectives

Volunteering has no end. The little picture must also be considered.
Opinion pages sit apart from news reports. They add depth, analysis, differing views and fresh ideas from a range of contributors much like a public conversation. This section of the newspaper aims to encourage readers to think more deeply about issues raised in the news. There is no need to be objective in the pieces published, although editors try to ensure that there is overall fairness in the range of opinions expressed. Background articles by staff journalists, experts from diverse fields, political and community leaders, writers and personal pieces from ordinary people are included. It is a forum for ideas, essential for a healthy democracy.

**USUALLY 4 DIFFERENT FORMS EXIST IN THIS SECTION:**

1. **EDITORIALS**

   Written by editors in the ‘third person’, the editorial presents the newspaper’s stance on an issue in the news. The daily editorials, or ‘leaders’ published under the ‘masthead’ present the paper’s own institutional ‘voice’ or opinion about an issue. Editorials give people ideas, are keenly followed and widely quoted. They make the paper part of a public conversation and are often intended to sway public opinion as well as the opinions of decision-makers in society. What the newspaper says in its editorial is usually decided at a morning editorial conference with the editor-in-chief, editor and leader writers (senior editors).

   **Activity**

   1. Read the editorial on the following page.

      What prompted the editorial about the Australia Day? Summarise the newspaper’s position on the date of Australia Day? What techniques does the editor use to make a persuasive argument? What is the final message of the editorial? Who is the editorial aiming to persuade?

2. **OPINION PIECES**

   Fairfax employs a range of regular contributors who are specialist opinion writers. Many of these writers are generally employed on a casual basis. Their role is to share their opinion on a current ‘hot topic’, which is going to create a lot of traffic on the newspaper website with the potential to divide readers’ beliefs. One of the main aims of an opinion piece is to persuade a certain target audience to share a similar opinion with the writer. With some ‘hot topics’, there may be several contributor writers – with vastly different views – published over time. ‘Hot topics’ are generally those that spark interest within the community, such as same-sex marriage, racism and terrorism, the date of Australia Day and the legalisation of euthanasia. These articles, although having some informative value, are primarily aimed to convince using a range of persuasive techniques. You may notice that opinion articles are generally written with a lot of flair and creativity and do not begin with a formal approach that is generally taken by news journalists.

   **Activity**

   1. Referring to the ‘Comment’ section of The Age or The Sydney Morning Herald, select an opinion article to analyse. Write the title of the article, the date and the author’s name.

      (a) What is the contention of the article?
      (b) List three main arguments that assists in the development of the contention.
      (c) Name three persuasive techniques that are used by the author to persuade. What is the purpose and effect of these techniques?
      (d) What is your opinion on this issue? (Write a 200–300 word article, delivering your opinion, using at least three persuasive techniques).

2. Opinion has an important role in newspapers. What is the difference between news and opinion? How important are reader contributions to newspapers and news websites?
Australia Day debate should not be a test of patriotism

Symbols are powerful. They are our collective shorthand, a way of encapsulating an idea, a message, a movement, an event, an identity. January 26, Australia Day, is more than a treasured national holiday. It symbolises how we see ourselves as a nation. It speaks to our pride in what we have achieved, and what we hope to become. Ideally, it should speak to our unity as a nation as well.

It is unfortunate, then, that the most recent eruption of the debate over the date on which to celebrate Australia Day should have been characterised by political point-scoring and opportunism. Millions of Australians look forward to the public holiday that marks our national day. For many, it represents the end of the long summer break, a last taste of freedom before the rhythms of school and the working week resume. It offers the pleasures and activities that are seen as quintessentially "Australian": a day at the beach, backyard cricket, barbecues.

For others, it is about solemnity – grand public events, flags and ceremonies. It is when we celebrate those among us who have achieved extraordinary things, with the announcement of the Australian of the Year awards on Australia Day eve. Among newer Australians, about 16,000 every year choose this as the day to take up citizenship of their adopted country.

Where, in all this, lies the story of Aboriginal Australia, our First Peoples? Labor frontbencher and Wiradjuri woman Linda Burney spoke from the heart this week when she said that many Indigenous Australians found the anniversary of January 26 a painful day. It is, of course, the anniversary of the day the First Fleet arrived in Port Jackson, the day when Arthur Phillip planted the British flag in the soil of the land. For many Aboriginal Australians, Australia Day is seen as “Survival Day”, or “Invasion Day”. But there is no monolithic view in the Aboriginal community either. Jacinta Price, a Northern Territory councillor, says not all Aboriginal people feel “victims” of the country’s recent history.

Tony Abbott’s former adviser on Indigenous affairs, Warren Mundine, has suggested moving the date to January 1, the date of Federation in 1901 when the six British colonies became the states of Australia. Other dates have also been mooted. One poll released this week suggests that a third of Australians do not know why Australia Day is tied to January 26, and a narrow majority would not mind if it was moved. Reconciliation Australia says January 26 “is not a date that can serve as a unifying national day”.

It is dispiriting, however, to see the culture wars igniting anew on this front. Greens leader Richard Di Natale wants to make it a priority issue. This week, the Prime Minister declared it a leadership test for Bill Shorten, demanding the Opposition Leader support Australia Day remaining on January 26. The “overwhelming majority” felt the same way, he said.

Ms Burney has acknowledged there seems no great upwelling of a movement for change. Ms Price argues that there are more pressing concerns for Aboriginal communities in her part of Australia. Quite likely, the debate would be less freighted with rancour if greater progress had been made towards eliminating the social and economic disadvantage that still plagues so many Indigenous communities.

On balance, The Age believes that leaving January 26 in place as our national day remains the less divisive course for now, until there is stronger evidence of a grassroots movement for change. But we can do much more to elevate the celebration of Aboriginal culture and history within the formal fabric of Australia Day. Our First Peoples have a proud history on this continent, stretching back more than 50,000 years. Let us hear those stories, tell them to our children, take pride in this unique and ancient culture.

Whether or not one is wedded to the idea of January 26 remaining, Australia Day should not be a test of patriotism. There is a case for a genuine discourse about whether it remains the most appropriate day for us to celebrate our success as a nation. But the discussion should not be debased by partisanship, name calling and even threats.

In the meantime, there is indeed much to celebrate.
3 – CARTOONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Cartoons use images with very few or no words. A cartoon can appear straightforward, but is often very complex. Cartoonists often present unique views about news items or current issues. They raise new ideas and shape opinions by confirming or challenging existing ones, often with humour and satire. Often, people, especially politicians, are depicted as caricatures for easy recognition. Drawings and cartoons have the ability to provoke immediate responses in readers.

Activity
1. Discuss the following with a partner:
   a) What does Matt Golding’s cartoon add to the news article ‘What Is Behind the Radio Waves from Outer Space’?
   b) Explain either of the messages in one of the 2 Golding cartoons – ‘2018...YOUR YEAR AHEAD’ and in the ‘AND ANOTHER THING’ column as featured in the ‘COMMENT’ section of *The Age* on 8 January.
   c) Now look at the cartoons by Matt Golding. Can you recognise a politician in any of them? Who?
   d) Choose one that you like and tell your partner why. What is the message of the cartoon? Is it funny? How does it make you feel? How does it make its point?
2. Identify the different techniques used by cartoonists above to visually represent an issue in the news.


With a partner discuss the skills and personal qualities that made Tandberg a successful cartoonist.

4 – LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘Letters to the editor’ enable members of the public to have a voice in the newspaper. Letters from readers give a snapshot of community reaction to the news. They reflect a variety of views from the public. Hundreds are usually received each day, usually submitted online or by email. An editor chooses which are published, around twelve longer and five shorter ones a day. Brief comments are also published in sections such as ‘And Another Thing’ in *The Age*. These ‘Letters to the editor’ are published in the newspaper’s online website while readers can submit comments attached to news on the paper’s website and its social media platforms.

Activity
1. Read the variety of ideas in the letters and comments from the public from today’s newspaper or from the comments pages in this guide. What main news items are discussed? Which idea/s do you agree or disagree with?
Online news

The generational change and demand for instant news has seen an increase in online readership, but a decline in traditional newspaper readership worldwide.

This has meant that many businesses are reluctant to advertise in newspapers, seeing that their target audience has rapidly shifted to online.

Due to the changing landscape for newspapers – which began shortly after the global financial crisis in 2008 and 2009 – many journalists, sub-editors, photographers, cartoonists and contributors have faced redundancies.

Some newspapers journalists have had to be re-skilled in some areas such as photography and multimedia content such as on-the-spot video coverage, similar to the skills of a radio or television journalist, in order to provide the immediacy of news for the website.

It also changed the way a journalist opts to write a particular story, knowing that it is for the here and now, and not just for the tomorrow when a traditional newspaper is published.

For most digital users nowadays, news is simply downloading The Age or The Sydney Morning Herald app and scrolling down the headlines for the ones that interest them, clicking into it and reading only up to a few paragraphs of each story – unless they find it more intriguing.

Stories – unless they are features – are somewhat shorter than those that typically are produced in newspapers. It is now paramount for journalists to write with the most important details at the top of the story and allow the importance to simmer down the rest of the article as represented by the ‘inverted pyramid’. It has also meant that most ‘exclusives’ (the journalist writes an angle to a story that no other journalist has discovered) have been typically uncovered online, rather than in newspapers. Although there is still some investigative journalism that breaks news in traditional newspapers, editors weigh up the value of holding off on publishing a story in the newspaper versus breaking it online.

Journalists face the onerous task of competing with more online journalists than ever before to produce a story and get it published online before other outlets. Immediacy in typing, carefully selecting quotations, interviewing and, of course, producing a quality article are needed. This is particularly relentless at press conferences, because every journalist wants to break the story first. Many of these stories are then used for the newspaper, which is published in the early hours of the next morning.

Activity

1. Watch the advertisement from The Guardian that imagines how it might cover the story of the Three Little Pigs in print and online. Follow the story from the paper’s front page headline, through a social media discussion and note how many ways and who gets involved in the fictitious news event: <https://www.theguardian.com/media/video/2012/feb/29/open-journalism-three-little-pigs-advert>.

2. Read the following job advertisement for a reporter and list the skills and desires needed for the position.
Another fundamental reason for the survival of newspapers is that they are primary sources for historians, researchers and academics in that they provide a record of the nations’ reactions to disasters and triumphs.

Online subscribers of Nine publications can now access a digital archive section, rather than sifting through loads of old newspapers in libraries. But is this still considered a reliable primary source for historians and can every section of a newspaper be added on here since the beginning of *The Age* newspaper in 1854? Does it take anything away from the satisfaction of researching a historical topic, or does it simply make it easier and more efficient?

**Activity**

1. Provide students with a copy of the latest newspaper and access to a digital version of it.
   a) Have a class discussion to compare and contrast reading a digital version of *The Age* or *The Sydney Morning Herald* to that of a hard copy version.
   b) What are the notable similarities and differences? Use and add to the table above.

**Activity**

1. Using the digital version of *The Age* or *The Sydney Morning Herald*, research a topic of your choice in the archives section. It could be an event in the past twenty years such as: the Black Saturday bushfires, the Melbourne Commonwealth games in 2006, Australia’s last Federal election (2016), the Stolen Generation apology from Kevin Rudd, deaths of Australian sporting icons such as Sir Donald Bradman and Peter Brock, or others. Collate all of *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*’s coverage on the topic and provide a written summary of the coverage, referring to the below questions as a guide.
   a) What is the main contention or context of the articles?
   b) Are there any visuals provided and are they a positive or negative influence on the overall contention?
   c) What is your opinion on this topic?
   d) After using the digital archives, what are the notable differences between using it and simply typing the event/subject into Google?

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**Digital archives**

8

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRINT NEWSPAPERS</th>
<th>ONLINE NEWSPAPERS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Once published content is fixed.</td>
<td>Content is updated and changes throughout the twenty-four hours of a day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs are used to accompany some articles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplementary ‘lift-out’ sections that vary based on the week day specialising in particular themes.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete articles can be found under headlines.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected readers responses are printed as ‘letters to the editor’.</td>
<td></td>
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Preparation to make your own newspaper

Key Skills for Journalists

+ Researching

Apart from receiving press releases from organisations, journalists must get their news from their own sources. This can require plenty of networking with the wider community, such as the local CFA, police, emergency services and council. Many stories come out of council meetings, which journalists can attend. Once a story is found, that is when the research into that story begins. It may start with Google, but it should also include communication with members of the ‘real world’. It will require picking up a phone – not texting but calling.

Activity

Research an issue that is currently being debated within your local council. You may need to grab a copy of your local newspaper and/or log on to its website to find this out. Write down details of this issue and how it may affect your community.

+ Getting an Interview

Arguably, the greatest mission for a journalist is to organise an interview. It is important that you introduce yourself as a journalist and for what publication you are writing for. This then means that any interview granted is ‘on the record’. Generally, the best articles contain interviews with sources that are going to be slightly controversial and/or provide a new angle to a current hot topic. With large corporate organisations, interviews are organised through a Public Relations team, who field many media requests on a daily basis. These generally, however, are the most rewarding interviews (if you can get them).

Writing a list of questions

The type of questions asked by journalists can provide weak or strong quotations for your article. Getting the interviewee comfortable from the beginning is the key – and this may take two or three ‘soft’ questions – before you get to your hard-hitting questions. Your questions should be open-ended to avoid short and sharp responses. You should aim to make the interview as professional as possible. Knowing the questions you are going to ask on the top of your head will assist with this. You can always refer to your questions, if you forget. Having prior knowledge and researching your interviewee is essential. Ensure that you throw in a question early in your interview that provides evidence of your research into the interviewee. You should have at least eight questions in your interview. Whilst coming up with your list of questions, think what value this interviewee will provide to your article. What do you want them to say? Ensure that your questions are based around this mini goal.

Note-taking

One of the main skills required of a journalist is note-taking. While traditional journalists needed to be quick writers in decades gone by, modern day journalists generally use an MP3 recorder or even their iPhone device to record interviews. Transcribing these onto a Word document requires accuracy and precision, but when deadlines are fast approaching, it also requires a swift approach. When transcribing, it is important to quote the interviewee correctly and not change the words that are said.

Activity

Watch a video from The Age’s 2017 in Review segments and take down notes of from the journalists’ discussions. You can choose from Peter Hartcher and Michael Bachelard (World Politics), Michael Bachelard (From the Front Line), Peter Hartcher and Michelle Griffin (Federal and State Politics), Adele Ferguson and Nick McKenzie (Investigations), Caroline Wilson and Chloe Saltau (Sport): [https://subscribers.theage.com.au/articles/the-age-live-2017-year-in-review/].
Your notes should detail main discussion points and what each speaker had to say on each piece. You should practice playing this interview without pausing it, to practice speedy note-taking skills. Traditionally, some journalists are trained in shorthand note-taking. This is a must for court reporters, as no electronic devices are allowed to record.

**+ Deciding on an ‘angle’ for your article**

After conducting your interviews and completing your research on the topic for your article, it is now time to decide on which ‘angle’ is going to be one that readers will want to know about the most. This will determine your introduction. While the editor has the ultimate control of this, the journalist is responsible for making this initial decision while writing. Ensure that you think logically about this. Perhaps, you may want to have a discussion with your editorial team about this. Common factors include the target audience, the interviewees’ quotes, the need for something ‘fresh’ – something that hasn’t been reported on as yet – and even what the consequences of this article may be.

**+ Carefully selecting quotations**

After you have transcribed the quotations from the interview, you then need to carefully select the strongest quotations for your article. Think back to your overall goal or purpose of this article. By this stage, you should have already decided on an angle for your article. Therefore, you should choose questions that are relative to this angle. For a news article, these need to be strong and concise. Where possible, you should use an ellipsis (…) to join important quotes together. For a feature or opinion article, these can maintain some length, while including only the meaningful ones. A sub-editor may add a ‘pull-quote’ from your story to enhance the importance of it, when laying out the page.

**Activity**

2. Carefully select a quotation from Caroline Wilson in the same video that showcases her explanation as to why she is stepping down as the chief football reporter.

**+ Editing**

While the editor plays the most important role in deciding which stories get more prevalence in a newspaper than another, the sub-editors, who lay out the pages and create the headlines and captions, must also edit articles to fit into the newspaper. Journalists are taught to rid their sensitivities about their articles being ‘chopped’, sometimes even in half. This is largely out of the journalists’ control.

**Activity**

1. The sub-editor wants to include this 562-word article in the newspaper, but can only include 300 words of it. Edit this story back to 300 words for it to be published.

CALLUM Sinclair spent four years in the VFL at different clubs trying to maximise his talent but injuries had time and time again cruelled his chances of playing in the AFL.

That was until the end of last year when the 23-year-old was plucked by West Coast as a mature age rookie after convincing the Eagles - under their close eye at Subiaco in the WAFL last season - that he had added a new string to his bow playing as a forward as well as a ruckman.

Port Melbourne coach Gary Ayres, who chased Sinclair for two seasons before snapping him up as a ruckman under his tutelage in 2010, said he was bemused that the promising tall wasn’t plucked by an AFL club earlier than he had been given his raw talent.

“He’s mobility, he’s probably six foot five and he can take a mark, he’s generally quite a reliable kick for goal and he’s generally got a good endurance tank so certainly at that size, there’s not a lot of those players are out there...I’m actually surprised that it took so long for an AFL club to take a punt on him,” Ayres said.

“He knew that there were particular teams interested in him and one was being West Coast and he thought he would ply his trade over there on the bigger grounds and come under notice and he obviously did that last year with Subiaco,” he said.

Sinclair spent two seasons on the Borough’s list after playing with Collingwood’s VFL team, where he didn’t play a senior match because of a stress fracture in his foot. He also struggled with patella tendinitis near the end of 2010 at Port before playing five VFL senior matches in 2011. He just missed out on playing in Port’s premiership team.

His move to Perth paid dividends in that he remained injury-free and starred with Subiaco last year.

After making an early season AFL debut for the Eagle before being omitted this week, Sinclair said he was confident he could still play a solid part, potentially as a key forward, despite the return of Nic Naitanui from injury.

“...I’m just trying to play my role for the team,” Sinclair said.

“Going forward or starting forward is just an aspect of the resting ruckman’s role, so I try to be as effective as I can when I go forward.”

Despite the success stories of state league players adding a quick to AFL teams, Ayres believes that recruiters tend to put too much time in the negatives of mature age players rather than looking at the qualities they can add.

“Recruiters tend to have a bit of an issue where they look too deep into things and reasons why you shouldn’t draft or recruit somebody rather than looking at their positives,” he said.

He states that’s perhaps what has happened with some VFL stars in recent seasons such as Myles Sewell, the brother of Hawthorn’s Brad, and Kris Pendlebury, the brother of Collingwood’s Scott, who have been overlooked in successive drafts despite dominating in their respective positions.

For the older heads, it has been the fairytale stories of Geelong’s James Podsiadly and more recently Western Bulldogs midfielder Brett Goodes that has provided hope for these veterans that are continually knocked back at the draft table despite their consistent form at state league level.
10 Newspaper production roles

The making of a newspaper is a collaborative process. Each member of a news organisation must fulfil their role to ensure news is published quickly. When creating a newspaper, choose a role that best suits your skills and interests.

Newspaper production roles

Editors take responsibility for overseeing and co-ordinating news coverage. Editors organise the coverage of news stories as a whole and decide what is published. It is their job to see that articles are accurate, interesting, legal and ethically responsible. Journalists who report on events, gather information and write articles, work closely with editors and assistant editors. Editors support reporters, photographers, video journalists and art directors. Photographers and video journalists either work with journalists or independently to visually represent news. Art directors coordinate graphic artists, illustrators and design the ‘look’ of pages.

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Photographers and video journalists
Photographers and video journalists either work with journalists or independently to visually represent news.

Art directors
Art directors coordinate graphic artists, illustrators and design the ‘look’ of pages.

If someone was to step into your job for a day, what would be the five tips you’d give them?

1. Remember to breathe! It can be hectic and there is a lot to juggle, but it’s best to take each thing as it comes.

2. Try to look at potential stories as an outsider (read: non-journalist!) would. What would readers think? Will they care about this – and if not, should they?

3. Take time out to prioritise tasks, even if it’s just a few minutes.

4. Be involved in stories – ideas generation can come from anywhere, top-down.

5. Think outside the square.

Take us through a story or milestone in your position of which you feel most proud.

I think the Walkley Awards last year were the highlight of my first year in the role as Editor. We absolutely dominated, and it was a thrill to have a room of our peers talking about us for all the right reasons. Our journalism - both written and visual – won more than a dozen awards and the photo-driven coverage of our series ‘Life Under ISIS’ won the Gold Walkley, the highest honour in Australian journalism. It was an incredible night – one I can’t wait to top next year!

What do you see a future newspaper looking like?

I think there will always be a place for a curated newspaper – even if it’s not printed on actual paper. I think our research shows that the bottomless pit of the internet can leave people feeling overwhelmed at the sheer volume of content available, so a curated selection of news, commentary, sport and business can be more appetizing and desirable for busy people. There’s a sense of accomplishment from reading such a product – and it’s satisfying to complete it. The Herald’s iPad can give people that experience too, and we find newspaper readers increasingly enjoy consuming the news that way.

A NEWSMAKER’S DAY

Lisa Davies, Editor at The Sydney Morning Herald

What would a standard day look like for you?

My day starts with checking what news has happened overnight and catching up with the news our competitors have chosen to pursue. I try to digest The Telegraph and The Australian, and The Financial Review before work – but there are only limited hours in the day! We have two news conferences each day – 9.15am and 2pm. The earlier one is the ‘what’s happening today’ one which is focused largely on news of the day and what the digital platforms might expect for their audiences, while the afternoon one is centred on the newspaper and the evening digital peak. Most days I also have either catch-ups with staff, meetings about Herald events, or external meetings. I try to make the two conferences my priorities.
Kate McClymont, Investigative Journalist

What would a standard day look like for you?

There is no standard day for me and that is what makes it such a great job. You never know what the day is going to bring. You might meet with a contact to get information on a potential story or an anonymous box of documents might be delivered to the office, or you might be called out to cover a major crime story.

If someone was to step into your job for a day, what would be the five tips you’d give them?

1. Always listen carefully to what people say.
2. Check and double check any information you are given.
3. Always try to get the documents which back up the information that someone gives you.
4. Make sure at least one person in the office knows where you are going if you are planning to meet with people you are not 100 percent sure about.
5. Don’t try to chase too many things down at once - one thing at a time.

Take us through a story or milestone in your position of which you feel most proud.

The jailing of corrupt former Labor politician Eddie Obeid was a rewarding moment in my career. Having written about him extensively for nearly two decades and having been sued by him for suggesting he was corrupt, it was such a relief to see that all our hard work was ultimately worthwhile.

Michael Bachelard, Editor at The Age

What would a standard day look like for you?

Wake up; read the headlines on the phone in bed. Exercise, shower, breakfast, read papers on iPad; answer early emails; listen to radio news. Walk to work (BBC World Service in headphones). I’m the investigations editor and the foreign editor, so once I’m at work, I’m talking to my staff, contributors and freelancers all over the world, thinking about the big news of the day, of the week (for the weekend newspapers) and of the next month (for forward planning). I’m trying to always think about two things: what’s interesting? what’s important? In other words, what will be of value to the readers of theage.com.au and The Age newspaper. Do we need photos, videos, graphics to tell these stories? Once I see what the reporters have produced, I help them rewrite to make it the best it can be.

If someone was to step into your job for a day, what would be the five tips you’d give them?

1. Be curious: being interested in what’s going on around you and asking questions (even, sometimes, silly ones) is the number one attribute of the journalist.
2. Try to see things from a lot of angles: why are people acting the way they are? What does it mean?
3. Be accurate: make sure you don’t gloss over the little stuff, because that matters to the people you’re dealing with.
4. Write well: we are communicators. Try to make it easy for them to understand the story.
5. Be fearless: lots of people will try to pressure you. Understand their position, be respectful of it. But don’t let them bully you. Make your own judgments in good faith.

Take us through a story or milestone in your position of which you feel most proud.

Last year I went twice to Mosul. It’s an old city in Iraq that was taken over and ruled by Islamic State for four years. I was there just as it was liberated, so I could speak to people who had lived under IS as soon as they were free. Most war reporting is all about the conflict and who’s winning. My story was about the people who had lived through IS and survived the war to free them. I spoke to the children; the women and the men, and I wrote their stories. I hope that story helped the people in Australia understand a reality of the world that most people would find it very difficult to understand, but which shaped Australia’s policy and response to the middle east. I also hoped that my readers would recognise in those people a common humanity, despite the massive differences.
Activity

Match the following job titles with the main tasks they do to create a newspaper:

**Job titles:**
- EDITOR
- DESIGNER
- JOURNALIST/REPORTER
- INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST
- FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT
- CARTOONIST
- PHOTOGRAPHER
- ART DIRECTOR
- FEATURES WRITER

**Tasks**
- Writes longer pieces that explore news issues in detail and depth.
- Reports on daily news events, attends press conferences, interviews and writes articles.
- Makes decisions about the coverage of news reports, coordinates journalists and writes editorials.
- Uses a camera to capture news images.
- Uses pens, pencils and humour to comment on news.
- Spends extended periods of time researching and interviewing to uncover new stories.
- Lives and reports on news in countries other than their own.
- Coordinates all the graphics, illustrations and the layout of a printed or online news page.
- Designs page layouts.

**Kate Geraghty, Photojournalist**

What would a standard day look like for you?

There is no standard day in *The Sydney Morning Herald* photographic department. Our department is over 100 years old and we are a group of passionate photojournalists dedicated to upholding the traditions of documenting our society and what shapes us both in Australia and overseas. We cover everything from breaking news like arrests or the Lindt cafe hostage situation or natural disasters like bushfires and floods, politics, business, education, rural stories, the arts, sports, and war. We can be called on by our picture editors and news editors to photograph any or several of these topics any time of the day or night, sometimes with a reporter or by ourselves.

If someone was to step into your job for a day, what would be the five tips you’d give them?

1. Be prepared and ready to go to a story at any time. This means have all your equipment ready, always have a bag packed in case you have to travel.

2. Make sure you are up to date on current domestic and international issues so if you are asked to cover something you have an idea of what you’re going in to.

3. Be flexible as news changes very quickly and you will have to adapt to these changes.

4. Research story ideas and work with your picture editors and reporters on developing these ideas. This also means regularly talking to your contacts.

5. Be respectful of everyone you meet and photograph. One of our core ethics is to be non-biased therefore it doesn’t matter if you personally agree or disagree with someone, you must give them respect as they are telling you their story or opinion.

Take us through a story or milestone in your position of which you feel most proud.

In 2003 I was sent by *The Sydney Morning Herald* to cover the invasion of Iraq. I was the first female photographer the paper had ever sent to combat. This was a huge honour for me. I spent nearly three months photographing the impact this war was having on Iraqi civilians. I have returned to Iraq eight times over the years. Most recently was last year where Michael Bachelard and I documented the battle to liberate Mosul from Islamic State (ISIS). We were awarded Australia’s most prestigious journalism award, a Gold Walkley, for our coverage which I am very proud of. More important than any award, I am proud that *The Sydney Morning Herald* has continued to send us to places like Iraq to tell people’s stories that we normally wouldn’t hear and shine a light on what is happening in our world.

Useful links for reference and further research

VIDEOS

https://www.theguardian.com/media/video/2012/feb/29/open-journalism-three-little-pigs-advert

BOOKS

VCE Media: New Ways and Meanings Units 1 & 2, Colin Stewart and Adam Kowaltzke, Jacaranda Wiley (Chapter 3.8, 4.25 and MG.5) (ebook)
Nelson Media: VCE Units 1-4, Jo Flack, 4ED Engage
Media Reloaded, Hugh Mason-Jones and Augusta Zeeng, Cambridge University Press
Media Reframed: VCE Units 1-4, Hugh Mason-Jones et al, Cambridge University Press
English Handbook (Section 5 Media Literacy), Robert Beardwood et al, Insight Publications
‘Breaking News: Covering the Black Saturday Bushfires’, Leith Young (Ben Haywood and Vikki Leone [eds]), The Age Education Resource Centre
Stop Press: The Last Days of Newspapers (Media Chronicles), Rachel Buchanan, Scribe Publications
The New Front Page: New Media and the Rise of the Audience (Media Chronicle), Tim Dunlop, Scribe Publications
Journalism at the Crossroads, Margaret Simons, Scribe Publications

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