

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

FINAL EXAMINATION 2009-2010

TITLE OF PAPER: NEWS REPORTING

COURSE CODE: JMC 211

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer any four questions.
2. Each question is worth 25 marks.
3. Legibility, grammar and mechanics will count in grading.
4. This paper consists of 3 pages, cover page included

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Question 1 (answer both parts):

Since November of 2009, there has been discussion of terminating or limiting tertiary scholarships. One reason given is the need to redirect the funding toward the Free Primary Education program. Another reason is the low repayment rates for the loan portions of such funds.

A) Describe two distinctly different story types and angles (one hard news and one a feature story) that could be approached for this topic. Include and explain the usefulness of at least two likely sources and/or interview subjects for each story. (15)

B) Choose one of the ideas and write a detailed reporting plan. (10)

Question 2 (answer both parts):

A) Explain the meanings of the terms "critical thinking" and "objectivity" as they relate to the journalism profession. (13)

B) Describe how these concepts would figure/factor into your reporting and news writing activities on the following story – a high school teacher is attacked by students who think he is practicing *muti* on school grounds. (12)

Question 3: Choose two of the following topics and discuss each one in detail. (12 ½ marks per topic)

- 1) The different types of news story leads.
- 2) Rules for writing headlines and photo captions.
- 3) Different news story genres.

Question 4:

You have just learned that an explosion occurred at the Maguga dam approximately one hour ago. Initial reports are that several people were injured and several have been arrested or taken in for questioning. No reason or explanation for the explosion has yet been provided.

Consider the following list of individuals; then, explain which four of these people would be most important to interview and what you would ask each person (provide at least 2 questions for each source). Also, describe how you would prepare for and conduct an interview and what you would do to follow up afterward.

Possible sources:

- A worker at the power plant who was on duty when the explosion occurred and who may have witnessed the event.
- The supervisor on duty at the time.
- The government minister whose department oversees the plant.
- A woman who lives nearby with her 3 children.
- A university professor who is an expert on hydroelectric power.
- A university professor who is an expert on the current state of political unrest in Swaziland.
- An anti-government activist whose organization has threatened to bomb the plant.

Question 5:

Describe in detail the differences between reporting and writing for the print media versus reporting and writing for radio or TV broadcast.

Question 6 (answer both parts):

A) Name and explain the twelve factors (described in chapter 3 of *Writing for the Media in Southern Africa*) that affect how the media select news items. (12)

B) Read the news story below, then analyse and critique the newsworthiness of this story in terms of these twelve factors. (13)

Ntuthuko in funeral drama

Dec 08,2009 00:00 by TIMOTHY SIMELANE



Not happy at all ... Senator Bonsile Mngometulu listens as her husband explains during an interview outside Parliament yesterday.

MACETJENI – Minister of Public Works and Transport Ntuthuko Dlamini, while on a personal business assignment, found himself caught within serious tension during a funeral at Mkhuzweni, outside Manzini.

The minister was merely pitching a tent in his capacity as a director of Openosisa Investments, when he stirred the hornet's nest in one of the factions within the divided Nkambule family. He was hired by the eldest son in the family Hlengiwe, who is husband to Senator Bonsile Mngometulu.

The other faction alleges that Minister Dlamini bulldozed his way because he did not consult them before pitching the tent. However, Hlengiwe says the minister did nothing wrong because he had been legally contracted to render service when he arrived at the homestead.

Drama started on Saturday afternoon at the home of Jakobe Nkambule, when family members were preparing for the funeral of Menelisi Nkambule who died after a short illness. The deceased is not a biological member of the family, but from another related household.

Recounting the incident, a family member, Bawinile Nkambule says she and others were conversing about preparations for the funeral when they heard noise from the outside.

"We went to inquire and found Ntuthuko with a group of men, having already spread the tent on the ground next to a rondavel. When I asked what was going on, he did not answer my question but retorted: "Sifuna kusebenta lapha lamadzandzane akakhweshe". (The girls must step aside because we want to work).

However, Minister Dlamini says he did not utter a word but that it was a Nkambule family member who suggested that a car parked next to the tent be removed.

Bawinile's older sister, who did not want to be named, said she immediately drove away because she understood Minister Dlamini to be expelling her from the homestead. She said she later returned to fetch Bawinile.

Meanwhile, Bawinile says she and her sister eventually missed the funeral of their brother because they were expelled.

"We had to go away because there was nothing we could do in defence. We have gathered that the funeral went ahead, though we do not know how, without the involvement of some family members."

The two say Minister Dlamini should apologise to them.

They also blame their brother Hlengiwe for failing to communicate with them when preparations for the funeral were made.

"It is even worse to note that we were not formally informed that our brother had died. We learnt from the Times (Classified advert section). We believe that as family members we deserved to be informed," Bawinile's sister says.