

Suggested Beat List for Student Media

Teachers: Use this list to help your students get started planning beat coverage for a newspaper, TV news show or yearbook. Also, if you taught Lesson 6 – Finding the News, the school tour and activities in that lesson may also have presented suggestions for beat coverage.

AT SCHOOL

Clubs – Create or obtain a list of all clubs active at your school and their sponsors or advisers. More active clubs such as Key Club or National Honor Society may be a beat of their own. Some clubs are related or have the same sponsor and can be assigned to one students.

Activities – Band, Color Guard, ROTC, dance, drama, newspaper, yearbook, TV and similar activities aren't clubs because they are tied to electives, but they often generate news. Create a list of all the elective activities and assign as individual beats.

Sports – Student journalists interested in sports should be assigned to one sport per season. Don't forget that the athletic director's office may also be a beat in itself. Make sure you get an updated list of all the teams and coaches for each season.

Curriculum and Academies – Many high schools offer specialized academic programs such as hospitality, information technology, engineering, culinary, environmental science, architecture, law, pre-medicine, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge Academy, etc. Make a list of all of the specialized academic programs your school offers and their teachers or team leaders and assign each as a beat. Each academic department chair should also be a check.

ESE and ELL – Don't forget any special programs for students who have special needs or are just learning English

Administration – Student council or student government, the administrative team, the testing director, the curriculum director, school nurse or clinic, the office staff

Student Services – Counseling and college planning

Once a year activities – Some of these will naturally fall within some beats, but they need to be handled differently, usually by a group of reporters and photographers. Use Lesson 8 – Covering Annual Events to handle these.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Community concerns – Gangs, graffiti, immigration, curfews and other laws affecting students

Entertainment – What to do on the weekends? Local music, movies, TV, festivals, etc.

Volunteering – Key places where your students volunteer, volunteer opportunities

Job opportunities

Local youth programs –Community arts and sports programs, teen centers, faith-based programs