



# Covering a Live Event as a Beat

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## Observation and storytelling

[Giants game story](#)

Read through this and take notes of the following:

- Specific sensory details
- Direct quotes
- Background information
- Characters in the narrative

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## Preparing for a Beat

- Anywhere from 50% to 70% of the story could be written before it happens.

*(this changes if something unexpected happened)*

- But... you will already know most of the who/what/when/where/why/hows before you get to your event.

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### The reporting process

- First, do your **research**.
- Set up interviews with **sources** that matter. Vary the selection of your sources.
- **Plan** your questions for each source.
- **Listen** carefully during the interview and ask follow-up questions to be sure you understand everything they say.
- Be **conversational**, be in control, and be ready to follow up.
- **Check back** for facts and quotes.

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### What to know prior ...

- **Research the topic.** Look for statistics, background information and facts related to the topic. Build questions and determine your angle.

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### What to know prior ...

- **Research your sources.** What is their expertise? What might they know and be able to add?

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**What to know prior ...**

An example: You are assigned to cover the homecoming assembly

- What do you need to know before the event?
- Where can you find information?
- Whom would you interview?

*Discuss now and record your responses*

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**Who are the best sources?**

It is tempting to interview only people you know. Friends, family members and teachers provide comfort.

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**Talk to more than your friends**

Ethics -

Discuss...

Why do you need to talk to people OUTSIDE of your circle of friends?

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### Who are the best sources?

Do your research before selecting your sources.

- Find sources who have **expertise** on the topic.
- Interview sources who offer **varying perspectives or points of view**.
- Find sources to provide **first-hand accounts** of events.

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### Who are the best sources?

When choosing sources for a story, consider:

- Balance, varying perspectives, opposing viewpoints, expertise
- Age, gender, race and ethnicity

Choose the sources who **best serve the story**, not the sources who are easiest to reach and most comfortable to talk to.

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### Who are the best sources?

Consider the various constituents or stakeholders:

- Sports:

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**Who are the best sources?**

Consider the various constituents or stakeholders:

- Politics:

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**Who are the best sources?**

Consider the various constituents or stakeholders:

- School Policy:

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**Who are the best sources?**

Consider the various constituents or stakeholders:

- Homecoming:

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## Final notes

- Take great notes of everything you observe.
- **Check your facts.** Check any information gained from the sources. Accuracy matters.
- **Transcribe your interviews** as soon as possible.
- Let your sources know that you might need to get back with them for additional information and fact-checking.

(so get contact info)

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