

BMC CC 410 Unit 1

Functions , Responsibilities and Qualities of a Reporter

Qualities of a Reporter

The ideal reporter has the following qualities:

- A natural Curiosity
- Ample uncertainty yet childlike enjoyment and enthusiasm
- Passion for the work
- A good reporter must have a sharp news sense.
- He should not bring his own particular prejudices or interests into sub editing.
- Should have good news sense so that he can create exciting stories.
- A good reporter has to get the facts clear and in sequence in his mind or on his copy pad.
- Judgment: The ability to take quick and right decisions.
- Calmness: Never be overexcited when major stories break. Your calm nerves are important in objectively assessing the news and the priority it deserves.
- A Dense Skin : An ability to keep from getting upset or offended by the things other people say and do (Criticism).

- Clarity: A reporter should have clarity of mind and expression. A person who is confused himself cannot tell a story to others.
- Objectivity: Reporter and sub-editor should aim at objectivity while dealing with a story. They should not allow their personal bias or ideas to creep into a story.
- Speed: In today's world speed matters everywhere. A person who cannot work fast cannot be a good reporter. He should think fast, decide fast and write or type fast for he has to meet deadlines or may have to go to another assignment.
- Punctuality: It is always better to be punctual and then wait than reach late and ask others—a rival may misinform you or hide some important information.
- Farsightedness: An intelligent envisioning of the future helps newsmen in general. The quality helps them in identifying processes and people who will be important in future.
- Mobility: A reporter should be mobile. He should enjoy moving around and should not hesitate travelling distances to get stories when required.
- A journalist should have a healthy skepticism. This means checking and rechecking information which is very important because every story is based on facts and evidence
- Ability to establish contacts and develop sources.
- Ability to Cope with Pressure from outside and within the News Organisation.

- Nose for news
- Language expertise
- Intelligence and courage
- Handling media equipment
- Outgoing nature
- Team spirit
- A good reporter must be able to analyze and interpret information.
- Creative
- Perseverance – Not giving up when struggling to find out information in the face of bureaucratic inertia, subterfuge or outright opposition
- Good at Communicative skills
- Good General Knowledge: A good journalist is one who knows something about everything. They are well-informed news junkies especially in the area of politics, current affairs and law.
- Capable to work with others and in irregular hours

Functions of a Reporter

Reporters are people that no media organisation can do without. A reporter's job is therefore a very important one.

The followings are the most common functions of a reporter:

- To Gather news
- To observe
- Finding the Angle (the right one)
- To make news reports
- To be an Active listener as well as a Person
- Covering events (e.g. International Film festival in Goa, PM visits Rangpur and hold a meeting)
- Go to Press Conference (A major source of news is the press conference. Leaders of political parties hold press conferences regularly. Ministers also hold press conferences to announce various programmes and policies of the government. Business houses arrange press conferences to launch their new products)
- Interviewing: Interviewing people connected with an event or incident is a very common practice used by reporters to get details
- To make quick decision

- To investigate information and report
- Watchdog of a Society
- To be socially responsible
- To maintain professional secrecy: A journalist respects the right of secrecy of every person and he may not publish news about someone's private life, unless they are transparent and relevant to the public interest
- To have time management
- Attribution and Protection of Sources
- Ethical considerations and respect for 'off the record statements'
- Follow Press laws, Ethics and Code of Conduct: Press freedom is a word that is commonly used. By this, we mean the right to publish news without any restriction or control. But this does not mean that anything about anybody can be published. There are certain rules of conduct or principles of morality which we have to follow while reporting.

Responsibilities

Reporters have many responsibilities. These are:

- Ensuring accuracy
- cutting down unnecessary words
- making sure the story is readable and complete.

Responsibilities

- **Responsibilities towards the news organisation**
- **Responsibilities towards the sources**
- **Responsibilities towards the reader and the society**

Towards the Readers & the Society

- Rooting out corruption at all levels
- Drawing attention to official negligence or incompetence
- Giving a voice to sectors of society without one
- Helping the public cast votes in elections by explaining political programmes of rival parties
- Explaining economic trends
- Scrutinising the work of the government, the courts and big companies to highlight failures and successes:

Towards News Organisations

- To follow the character, style and policy of your newspaper or magazine or news agency.

Towards the Sources

- ▶ To Assure that no harm will come to them
- ▶ To keep their identity a Secret