

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER: 2008

SUPPLEMENTARY

TITLE OF PAPER: NEWS REPORTTING

COURSE CODE: JMC 211

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer **four (4)** questions.
2. Write **legibly**, that is, **boldly** and **clearly**.
3. Evince the principles of **composition** and **grammar**.

THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

JMC 216: NEWS WRITING

Each question carries 15 marks

1. **Identify and explain** the aspects of a news story in very concrete terms; that is, mention specific items that illustrate each aspect.
2. **Write** a 100-word news story with a summary lead, using the information in Attachment 1.
3. **Write** FOUR different kinds of lead, based on Attachment 1, after you have first **defined** or **described** each type of lead.
4. **List and explain** SIX qualities that reporters must have to do their work well, relating each quality to specific reportorial tasks.
5. **Describe** the basic means of reporting and their associated techniques.
6. **Mention** FIVE types of errors that are common in news stories in Swazi newspapers, and **illustrate** each type.

ATTACHMENT 1: Fact Sheet

1. After introducing the topic of his lecture, Professor Simelane pointed out that: "Contrary to popular belief, journalism is not an all-comers occupation. It is indeed a noble profession that seeks and defends the public interest by holding Government accountable to the people. And as a profession, its practitioners must be adequately equipped
2. The guest lecture lasted for 45 minutes and it was quite wide-ranging, covering a brief history the history of journalism in Swaziland, the issue of press in the country, the cultural constraints on the news media, the professional orientation of news media editors and administrators, and the peculiarities of the contents of Swazi newspapers and news broadcasts, with particular regards to adherence to professional and ethical standards.
3. Many journalists from all ranks of the profession were among the audience: reporters, columnists, news analysts, and editors, as well news media executives
4. The University of Swaziland's auditorium was filled to capacity. It was a day the UNISWA Journalism Students' Association (UJSA), especially, its executive, has been looking forward to. What's more, the Vice-Chancellor has been kind enough to also grace the occasion. It was 6: 50 p.m., and he was already in the auditorium. The event was scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m.
5. In his welcome address, the President of UJSA, Bongani Mfofo, thanked the Vice Chancellor and the guest speaker for accepting the association's invitation. "" As potential practitioners of journalism in the country," he declared, "we have a stake in the profession. Our careers depend on what happens to the various news organisations in the country and mind-set of those who are already in the profession. We therefore see the problems of the profession as our own. And we believe that these problems need to be identified and exposed for the public to appreciate them. That is why we have found it proper to devote the inaugural lecture of our association to the subject, and to ask a distinguished scholar to address it. We believe that he will enlighten us and make all practitioners of journalism in the country rise to the challenges facing the profession."
6. Professor Simelane finally deposed: "Our country Swaziland needs journalists whose education and training makes them professionals in every sense of the word. Given the state of journalism in our country, today, I cannot beat my chest and declare that we have the right stuff. But I can say that if we face the challenge of producing competent journalists, squarely, we can have the right stuff in the very near future. And I do believe that the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Swaziland, can be a pillar in the process, with you, the students, as the fruits of that process."
7. The occasion was the first annual lecture of the USA. This inaugural lecture was titled, "The Challenge of Professionalising Journalism in Swaziland." The guest lecturer is the Chairman of the Swaziland Press Council, Professor Bhekie Simelane. Simelane is a retired professor of journalism who has taught in the United States and South Africa, before he came back home to the University of Swaziland, where he ended his university career in 2005.