

What Makes a Story Newsworthy?

Factor/Value	Definition	Checklist from your story
1. Timeliness	Immediate, current information & events are newsworthy because they have just recently occurred. It's news because it's "new."	
2. Proximity	Local information & events are newsworthy because they affect the people in our community & region. We care more about things that happen "close to home." Note that proximity doesn't have to mean geographical distance. Stories from countries with which we have a particular bond or similarity have the same effect.	
3. Conflict and Controversy	When violence strikes or when people argue about actions, events, ideas or policies, we care. Conflict & controversy attract our attention by highlighting problems or differences within the community.	
4. Human Interest & Prominence	People are interested in other people. Everyone has something to celebrate & something to complain about. We like unusual stories of people who accomplish amazing feats or handle a life crisis because we can identify with them. Human interest stories are a bit of a special case. They often disregard the main rules of newsworthiness; for example, they don't date as quickly, they need not affect a large number of people, and it may not matter where in the world the story takes place. Human interest stories appeal to emotion. They aim to evoke responses such as amusement or sadness. Television news programs often place a humorous or quirky story at the end of the show to finish on a feel-good note. Newspapers often have a dedicated area for offbeat or interesting items. Famous people get more coverage just because they are famous. If you break your arm it won't make the news, but if the Queen of England breaks her arm it's big news.	
5. Relevance	People are attracted to information that helps them make good decisions. If you like to cook, you find recipes relevant. If you're looking for a job, the business news is relevant. We depend on relevant information that helps us make decisions.	
6. Significance	The number of people affected by the story is important. A plane crash in which hundreds of people died is more significant than a crash killing a dozen	

Sources: PBS Newshour and Media College.com