



School of Communication

January Semester 2015

COM 247 A, B, &T; News Reporting and Writing
Final Project (50 Marks)
(2 hours)

Instructions:

1. This project should be completed in 4 (four) weeks
2. Chose any tow questions from the questions provided
3. The final paper is due on the date scheduled for your final exams : A, B&T, 2015
4. A draft of part (b) of each of the stories is due by end of the second week after receiving the project paper, for review and comments.
5. All exams regulations apply. Plagiarism will earn you a failing grade
6. Chose two out of the three topics provided

Question 1.

You are a senior reporter working at *The Star* Newspaper. Your editor has assigned you to cover a story based on the following Press Release (attached):

Requirements for coverage:

- Do more findings about the company that sent this release and come up with a fresh informative story of between 6 and 8 paragraphs (your approach in writing can be a news-pegged feature or straight news).
- Your story should: show fresh findings, meet the standard and qualities of news structure, considering news values, and a suitable lead.
- Further, show evidence of the following journalistic principles and disciplines: public interest, objectivity, balance, truth, accuracy, fairness, verification, etc.,
- The story should have three quotes and two attributions, as well as evidence of information from two key documents used in your research.
- Story length 500 and 600 words.

On a separate page attach the following:

- i. A list of three key interview sources and justify the reason for such choices,
- ii. A list of four key documents with justification of your choices for such a story
- iii. Describe your process of covering this story: the story idea, information gathering process, interview process and challenges
- iv. Explain two key differences between covering a story based on a press release and that of other news based on incidences.

Marks allocation

a) Story content, structure, originality, reporting principles (**30 marks**) –lead 5 marks, story content -10 marks, news structure and quality- 5 marks, evidence of journalistic principles and disciplines- 10 marks.

b) Story angle (2 marks), key elements (5 marks), information gathering process (6 marks), documents and interview sources (7 marks)

Question 2.

News from courts is one among regular beats covered by journalists.

Visit any court of your choice (e.g. Magistrate's court, High court, Industrial court etc) while in session and identify an interesting case to cover at the hearing stage.

a) Write a detailed news story covering the following of at least 7 paragraphs:

i) Arrest of the accused

ii) Charge

iii) Arraignment

iv) Court proceedings /hearing

Your story must demonstrate clearly: original work, fresh findings, satisfactory content, the standard and qualities of news structure, with evidence of news values, and a suitable lead.

- Further, evidence of journalistic principles and disciplines: public interest, objectivity, balance, truth, accuracy, fairness, verification, relevant quotes, and attributions, key documents used in your research.

- Story length 550 and 750 words.

b) On a separate page attach

i) Brief explanation of the angle of your story- the most significant aspect of this news story.

ii) A list of at least 5 key elements that must be present in the content of this kind of story.

iii) Brief description your information gathering process (background research, interviews, reasons for the choices of your news sources and documents used.

iv) Names of three documents you identified and used and justification for the choices.

v) Four interview sources selected and justification for the choices.

Marks allocation

a) Story content, structure, originality, reporting principles: lead 5 marks, story content -10 marks, news structure and quality- 5 marks, evidence of journalistic principles and disciplines- 10 marks (Total 30 marks)

b) Story angle-2 marks, key elements -5 marks, information gathering process -6 marks, documents and interview sources -7 marks; total 20 marks)

Question 3.

Digital Migration is a topic of news interest to many local and international editors.

Follow this topic in the next one week and identify an interesting angle. Come up with a fresh story intended for any one of the following- local, regional or international newspaper. **(30 marks)**

Your story must demonstrate originality, freshness, satisfactory content (at least 8 paragraphs). It should show evidence of newsworthiness, quality in presentation and a clear news structure, journalistic principles and disciplines,. The content should demonstrate evidence of background research and interviews with relevant sources by quotes, attributions and information from key documents used in your research.
- Story length 550 to 750 words.

Attach a separate page to the story with the following: **(20 marks)**

- a) Brief explanation of the angle of your story
- b) Detailed description of your information gathering process- background research, identification of news sources
- c) Brief account of the stages you used in your interview
- d) In a paragraph of two explain the challenges you faced in the process of gathering information

Marks allocation

- a) Lead and angling- 5 marks, story content -10 marks

news structure and quality- 5 marks, evidence of journalistic principles and disciplines-10 marks

b) Story angle (2 marks), information gathering process (8 marks), interview stages (6 marks), challenges faced in gathering information (4 marks)

Attachment

PRESS RELEASE



SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROF. JACOB T. KAIMENYI, PhD, FICD, EBS, CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ‘STIMA SERIES’ BOOK LAUNCH HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH MARCH 2015 AT KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

The Chairman, East African Educational Publishers Ltd (EAEP)

The Board of Directors

Members

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be with you as guest of Honour on this auspicious occasion of ‘Stima Series’ Book Launch. This is an

occasion to which all of us have been looking forward to. This is true given that it is the first and only non-fiction primary school book series on electricity to be launched in our country.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude as a ministry to East African Educational Publishers (EAEP).

This is borne of the fact that they have been our faithful partners over the years in the production of quality teaching/learning materials for both primary and secondary schools in this Nation. This is a clear demonstration that you understand the fact that in an endeavor to provide quality education, it is crucial for all stakeholders to genuinely and actively participate in the exercise.

The present world of advanced technology demands that children are exposed to explicit systems that are inclusive and driven by them, systems that will enable them to respond to their feelings and needs at any given time.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to mention that all children and young people have a right to participate in decision making about their own lives. However, a sound decision making about one's life is largely determined by the experiences one undergoes in early life.

By publishing 'Stima Series' Book we will not only create an opportunity for the children to spend their time meaningfully by reading but will also influence their future lives once they read and comprehend the content. It is therefore noteworthy that the book is being launched at the time when our focus as a Nation is on the realization of the vision 2030 objectives. Indeed, Mahatma Gandhi correctly observed that in a real war against war, success can be

achieved when we begin with children. Our war in this context is against illiteracy and poverty among others.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am happy to note that EAEP is recognizing the Governments' efforts to increase electricity availability throughout the country. But more importantly is the dissemination of knowledge about electricity to the populace. I am sure the 'Stima Series' Book has addressed this aspect to the extent that both young and old can acquire knowledge and skills which can enable them use this vital resource effectively and efficiently.

May I therefore thank Mr. James Ngomeli; a former Kenya Power and Lighting staff, for authoring such a compelling and practical reading material for the primary school going children to experience electricity for their first time.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the decision to commission 'Stima Series' Book by EAEP was well for it is in tandem with our national spirit of building a better tomorrow for Kenyans. The education we offer therefore should purposely nurture targeted values, competences and dispositions in our pupils to enable them become functional members of the society.

In this regard, let me state that diversity holds the potential to be a rich source of vital learning for our children. However, before this aim is achieved, teachers, practitioners and managers will have to dig deeper into their own attitudes and practices, to ensure that each child has an inclusive and equitable experience and character

building. Through captivating stories about our daily encounters in the environment where we live and with the support and guidance from story books like the one we are launching today, children and their teachers will be able to learn to critically reflect on what electricity can do to change lives in the rural areas and how to ensure safety in their communities.

Mr. Chairman, as we are all aware, every child has a right to education as a basic human right. This is well articulated in universal conventions such as Education for all (EFA), Universal Primary Education (UPE) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to which our country has subscribed.

Alongside that, our education sector policies are very clear on the Governments' resolve to offer quality education for all. For instance, the Sessional Paper No.14 of 2012 among other policy documents enshrines education as a "right for every child irrespective of gender, race, religion, custom, tribe or disability". This right is further fortified by the law in Kenya when Kenya ratified the UN convention on Rights of the child (1989) article 2 by enacting the children's Act (2001) and the Disability Act (2003).

It is in this vein and as a means of enhancing access, retention and completion that the Government has increased funding towards FPE by 39% and 33% for Free Day Secondary Education this year. It is my conviction that this is the Government's endeavor to address equity and access in the provision of quality educational services. My Ministry expects that headteachers will ensure the books they purchase will be books approved by KICD and are in the

Orange Book. I am pleased to note that the “Stima Series” Book is in this category.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I draw closer to concluding my remarks I would like to make it clear to all stake-holders in the Education Sector that as a policy, English language is the official medium of instruction in all our Primary and Secondary Schools. However instructions at an early age from pre-primary to standard three should be given in the language the children understand, which is the language of the catchment area. This is intended to enable children internalize local concepts from the unknown to known.

The fundamental idea is to build and foster a reading culture in our children with an objective of acquiring as much knowledge as possible as well as functional skills.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate the need to have a responsibility to these children, to ask what actions we must take in order to give every child in Kenya the best possible chance in life.

This is possible if we work together to ensure that children’s fundamental human rights are respected and promoted in whichever possible way.

Let us continue to strive for the Kenya envisaged in the ‘Stima Series’ Book by EAEP.

Finally ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to thank you once again for inviting me to preside over this launch and with that, it is now my pleasure to declare ‘Stima Series’ Book officially launched.

Thank You!