Writing for Broadcast Journalists

‘This is a superb book which combines the rare mixture of high quality information with humour. The style of writing engages the reader from the introduction, and the experience and insight of the author occasionally make it difficult to put down, a rare feature of a textbook. I would unreservedly recommend this book not only to those studying journalism, but to students of language and all who use the spoken and written word as the “materials” of their work.’

Barry Turner, Senior Lecturer, Nottingham Trent University and University of Lincoln

‘Rick Thompson’s guidance manual is packed with advice to would-be writers for this medium. He’s someone with years of experience at the top level of the national and international profession, and he’s smack up to date with his references. The book is aimed at journalists, but anyone with a serious interest in developing their literacy will learn a lot about professional writing skills from what he has to say.’

Roy Johnson, www.mantex.co.uk

Writing for Broadcast Journalists guides readers through the significant differences between the written and the spoken versions of journalistic English. It will help broadcast journalists at every stage of their careers to avoid such pitfalls as the use of newspaper-English, common linguistic errors, and Americanised phrases, and gives practical advice on accurate terminology and pronunciation, while encouraging writers to capture the immediacy of the spoken word in their scripts.

Written in a lively and accessible style by an experienced BBC TV and radio editor, Writing for Broadcast Journalists is the authoritative guide to the techniques of writing for radio and television. This new edition has a special section about writing online news.

Writing for Broadcast Journalists includes:

- practical tips on how to avoid ‘journalese’, clichés and jargon
- guidance on tailoring your writing style to suit a particular audience
- advice on converting agency copy into spoken English
- writing to television pictures
- examples of scripts from some of the best in the business
- an appendix of ‘dangerous’ words and phrases to be avoided in scripts.

Rick Thompson has held senior editorial positions with BBC News at the regional, national and international levels in television and radio. He now trains journalists in central and eastern Europe, and is the Visiting Professor of Broadcast Journalism at Birmingham City University.
Media Skills

Series Editor: Richard Keeble, Lincoln University

The Media Skills series provides a concise and thorough introduction to a rapidly changing media landscape. Each book is written by media and journalism lecturers or experienced professionals and is a key resource for a particular industry. Offering helpful advice and information and using practical examples from print, broadcast and digital media, as well as discussing ethical and regulatory issues, Media Skills books are essential guides for students and media professionals.

Also in this series:

- English for Journalists, 3rd edition
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