Choose a current event that recently has received coverage in the newspaper, online, and on TV. Track the story, and compare the coverage of each format.

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|  | Online | Print | Newscast |
| **1.** What was the headlineor lead? |  |  |  |
| **2.** What angle did thestory focus on? |  |  |  |
| **3.** How thorough was the coverage? Were any questions unanswered?If so, which ones? |  |  |  |
| **4.** How many sourceswere consulted? |  |  |  |
| **5.** How much time orspace did the reporttake up? |  |  |  |
| **6.** What video footage,interactive features, orimages accompaniedthe story? |  |  |  |
| **7.** Where or when wasthe report featured? (Ifonline, what was thehomepage?) |  |  |  |
| **8.** How timely was thereport? |  |  |  |
| **9.** Was the story biasedor sensationalised? Ifso, how? |  |  |  |
| **10.** Overall comparison:Which report did thebest job of coveringthe story? |  |  |  |

**Recognise the advantages and disadvantages for each news format.** The news is packaged in a variety of ways, not only to deliver information but also to appeal to an audience.

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|  | **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| Print | **•** coverage often more detailed**•** more time devoted to gathering facts and interviewing people**•** quick scans reveal basic facts and information**•** quotations put in context**•** readers can choose what to read | **•** not up-to-the-minute**•** readers need more time to understand the day’s events**•** stories might be cut for space, losing details or information**•** not as personal**•** reports are static—no live footage, sound bites, or music |
| TV | **•** breaking stories covered**•** viewers put at the scene**•** video and audio give immediacy and drama**•** regular updates | **•** not always thorough**•** stories might be aired before all facts gathered**•** sound bites can be taken out of context**•** footage or sound bites can sensationalize story or create bias**•** viewers have little or no choice about which stories to view |
| Online | **•** breaking stories posted and updated immediately**•** no length limitations**•** interactive features bring story to life**•** links give additional information**•** readers can choose which stories to read | **•** not available or easily accessible for everyone**•** quick posting often leads to inaccurate facts**•** site may not be reliable**•** site may be biased**•** story can be sensationalized |