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 headline  or lead? |  |  |  |
| **2.** What angle did the  story focus on? |  |  |  |
| **3.** How thorough was the coverage? Were any questions unanswered?  If so, which ones? |  |  |  |
| **4.** How many sources  were consulted? |  |  |  |
| **5.** How much time or  space did the report  take up? |  |  |  |
| **6.** What video footage,  interactive features, or  images accompanied  the story? |  |  |  |
| **7.** Where or when was  the report featured? (If  online, what was the  homepage?) |  |  |  |
| **8.** How timely was the  report? |  |  |  |
| **9.** Was the story biased  or sensationalised? If  so, how? |  |  |  |
| **10.** Overall comparison:  Which report did the  best job of covering  the 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 |