

Topic # 5

Radio news programs

Susana Herrera Damas, Ph. D.



Universidad
Carlos III de Madrid



Summary:

- Other resources in radio journalism
 - The battery of headlines
 - The battery of brief news
 - The vox pop
- Types of radio programs
- The structure of a news program

The battery of headlines

- It is included at the beginning of the news program with a cue from the host
- It just takes one minute aprox.
- It is normally read by 2 people: the editor and a support speaker
- With a tune at the background

The battery of headlines

- The idea is to serve as a summary and also as a claim
- For this reason, it must be very appealing and attractive because it has to grasp the listener's attention
- Headlines must be clearly written and provide something of the essence of an information, but without being too exhaustive

The battery of brief news

- Aesthetically, they sound like the headlines
- The difference lays on the function
- They refer to important information, but not so important as to justify an autonomous treatment like news, reports, interviews or features
- For this reason, they are all included in a 1 minute battery, with 4 briefs (for instance)
- The battery is placed at the end of one of the blocks (ex: politics, economics, society, culture, health, education or sports)

The battery of brief news

- They are also introduced by a cue read by the host
- Like the headlines, briefs are also read with a tune, to energize this part and increase the rhythm

The vox pop

- It is like a poll
- Several persons are asked about the same “controversial” topic
- The aim: to check the status of opinion regarding a particular issue
- Interventions are afterwards edited with [Audacity](#) or alike
- It is mostly used for sensitive issues where is difficult to reach an agreement

The vox pop

- This poll has no statistical accuracy!
- Anyway, it is interesting to know some of the views of ordinary people expressed in their own words
- Interventions must have a similar length
- There are two ways to introduce it:
 - a) With a general cue from the host to justify the poll and to pose the question (“To know more the opinion of we have been in the street and these were the views of some people...”)
 - b) With a cue from the host to justify the poll and to pose the question, by firstly introducing a point of view and secondly, the other one (“However, not everyone would agree. Others insist...”)

Types of radio news programs

- Hourly bulletin
- Summary bulletin
- Flash
- Midday news program
- Morning news program
- Evening news program
- Weekly news program
- Special news program
- Specialized news program
- News magazine

(See detailed description at [Soengas](#), 2003)

The structure of a radio news programme

- Headlines
- Information offered through different genres and structured by blocks
 - Politics
 - Economics
 - Society
 - Education
 - Health
 - Culture
 - Sports
 - Service information
 - Connection to know the weather forecast (20")
 - Connection to know the traffic conditions for the next hours (20")
- Brief goodbye by the host

Everything must be introduced by a cue from the host
Cues must be similar in tone and length

The end

Thank you very much for your attention