

# Organisation des débats entre candidats : 2 / 3

*Le National Democratic Institute, groupe de réflexion non gouvernemental à but non lucratif basé à Washington, offre les conseils suivants sur l'organisation des débats entre candidats aux élections. (Ce texte a été abrégé et révisé pour y apporter des clarifications.)*

La sénatrice Mary Landrieu et le représentant Bill Cassidy, tous deux de  Louisiane, se saluent avant le début de leur dernier débat pour le second tour des élections sénatoriales 2014.

La réputation du groupe qui planifie un débat repose sur la capacité du groupe à faire en sorte que le public le voit et continue à le voir comme une organisation équitable et transparente. Toute perception de partialité ou de mauvaise gestion des débats peut miner la capacité du groupe à convaincre des candidats de participer à de futurs débats.

## **Se concentrer sur l'objectif**

L'objectif d'un débat est d'aider les électeurs à faire un choix éclairé parmi les candidats à un mandat électif. Les planificateurs du débat doivent éviter d'être perçus comme promouvant les intérêts des médias ou d'entités commerciales.

## **Rechercher la simplicité**

Un débat exige que l'on gère de nombreuses questions d'organisation, de production, de médias et de politique. Faire simple, tout particulièrement pour un premier débat, permet de limiter le nombre de problèmes. Une approche simplifiée peut contribuer à minimiser les complications de dernière minute qui prennent du temps et détournent de la mission qui est d'informer les électeurs. Des méthodes plus avancées sur le plan de l'organisation et de la production peuvent être ajoutées aux débats ultérieurs.

## **Il n'y a pas de mauvais débat**

Un débat, même s'il est loin d'être parfait, vaut mieux que pas de débat du tout. Même déficient, le débat informe dans une certaine mesure les électeurs. Le seul fait d'avoir un débat entre les candidats est une première étape vers l'établissement de cette activité comme élément intégral et attendu des élections.

## **Pas de candidats, pas de débat**

Les planificateurs doivent faire preuve de souplesse lors de la négociation des questions à poser pour éviter d'amener les candidats à se retirer du débat proposé. Il est valable, sans sacrifier la neutralité et l'équité, de faire des concessions aux candidats pour empêcher l'effondrement des négociations. Même si certains candidats décident de ne pas participer, un débat peut avoir pour effet d'axer les campagnes sur les questions de politique publique, réduisant ainsi les tensions politiques.

À mesure qu'augmentent les attentes du public concernant les débats et que se renforce le soutien

des médias en faveur de ceux-ci, on voit aussi s'accroître la certitude que ces activités auront effectivement lieu. Les candidats se sentent alors davantage contraints d'y participer.

L'organisation d'un débat peut s'avérer ardue. Parmi les nombreux détails logistiques, en voici certains à ne pas oublier :

- Sélectionner un format de débat approprié.
- Établir un calendrier, un budget et un plan de dotation en personnel pour le débat.
- Sélectionner un partenaire de production.
- Élaborer une stratégie médias pour la promotion du débat.
- Présenter un plan pour le débat aux candidats et autres acteurs clés.
- Choisir un lieu pour le débat.
- Assurer la sécurité du public, en coordination avec la police et autres agents de sécurité.
- Fixer les directives concernant les billets d'admission et l'auditoire pour le débat.
- Décider qui et combien de personnes seront invitées.
- Recruter et gérer les bénévoles engagés pour le débat.
- Respecter les réglementations locales et électorales en consultant un conseiller juridique.
- Tenir le débat et en assurer la radiodiffusion/télédiffusion.
- Évaluer le débat pour y apporter des améliorations à l'avenir.

Pour de plus amples informations sur les débats, se reporter au document intitulé « [Organizing and Producing Candidate Debates](#) [PDF en Anglais]» disponible sur le site Web du National Democratic Institute.

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## Les débats électoraux, base de la démocratie : 1 / 3

Les débats entre candidats concurrents sont, dans le monde entier, devenus une pièce  maîtresse des campagnes électorales. La tradition s'est implantée dans plus de 60 pays et les groupes de la société civile jouent un rôle crucial dans ce processus.

Les débats aident les électeurs à effectuer des choix éclairés et encouragent les candidats à se concentrer sur les questions de politique, conviction si répandue que ces affrontements entre candidats sont devenus, en de nombreux lieux, des piliers du processus électoral.

Le National Democratic Institute, groupe de réflexion non gouvernemental à but non lucratif basé à Washington, propose les directives suivantes pour les débats.

### **Qu'est-ce qu'un débat entre candidats?**

Un débat entre candidats est une tribune digne et neutre où des dirigeants des partis politiques ou d'autres candidats de listes concurrentes répondent aux mêmes questions posées par des électeurs,

un modérateur ou d'autres participants au débat. Les auditeurs sont en mesure de comparer les positions des candidats sur divers problèmes.

Les candidats conviennent mutuellement des règles, la plupart du temps concernant les temps de réponse et de parole, pour que le processus soit équitable. Les débats comportent normalement une certaine interaction entre les candidats par le biais de réfutations ou de questions de suivi.

### **Objectifs des débats**

Les débats traitent de questions et non pas de personnes, de religion ou d'appartenance ethnique. Ils favorisent la tolérance politique, le dialogue constructif et le service à la population.

### **Les débats aident les candidats à se préparer à faire campagne et à gouverner s'ils sont élus**

Les débats aident les candidats à réfléchir à des questions sur lesquelles ils ne se sont pas concentrés auparavant.

« Ils nous forcent à anticiper. » - Bob Dole, candidat à la présidence des États-Unis en 1996 pour le Parti républicain

« Je suis convaincu que les débats auxquels j'ai participé... m'ont en fait aidé à être un meilleur président. » - Bill Clinton, président des États-Unis (1993-2001)

### **Les débats informent les électeurs**

Les débats sont souvent la seule occasion durant la campagne où les candidats se trouvent en même temps en un même lieu. Cela donne aux électeurs l'occasion de faire des comparaisons en parallèle et aux candidats la possibilité de dire pourquoi ils sont les mieux placés pour être élus.

### **Les débats aident à réduire les tensions politiques**

Dans les environnements où les élections sont source de divisions ou dans les pays qui sortent d'un conflit, les débats donnent aux rivaux politiques une chance de prouver que, en dépit de leurs différences, ils peuvent se traiter mutuellement avec respect tout en étant en désaccord sur certaines questions.

Les débats donnent également une chance aux candidats de s'engager publiquement en faveur d'une élection pacifique, y compris d'accepter les résultats du scrutin et de recourir à des moyens juridiques non violents pour résoudre les conflits électoraux.

### **Les débats favorisent la responsabilisation des élus**

Au cours des débats, les déclarations des candidats, leurs prises de positions politiques et leurs promesses de campagne sont inscrites dans les archives publiques. Une fois que les candidats gagnants exercent leurs fonctions, les groupes civiques et les médias peuvent leur demander des comptes en les renvoyant aux transcriptions des débats ou aux autres documents de la couverture médiatique des débats.

### **Les débats mettent en évidence la santé d'une démocratie**

Les débats sont de plus en plus perçus comme des points de référence indicatifs de la santé de la démocratie. Les citoyens voient les débats comme des signes de l'ouverture et de la transparence d'un processus électoral où tous les candidats peuvent se confronter sur un pied d'égalité.

Pour de plus amples informations sur les débats, voir le document intitulé « [Organizing and Producing Candidate Debates](#) [PDF en Anglais] » sur le site Web du National Democratic Institute.

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## [YALI to Carry On, Obama Says](#)

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) will continue to exist even after President Obama leaves the White House in January 2017, the U.S. leader assured excited Mandela Washington Fellows. The 500 fellows were meeting in Washington August 3 for the second annual Presidential Summit.

“When I leave office I will continue to create these platforms for young leaders,” he said, noting that he has started similar leadership programs for young Asian and Latin American leaders. He encouraged the fellows and the 140,000 other members of the YALI Network to expand their own networks worldwide. “You can learn from every place,” he said.

Speaking to YALI Network members who tuned into his speech via livestream and Twitter, he said, “I’m proud of you all. And I’m proud of the progress we’ve made.”

Obama also confirmed that in 2016 the Mandela Washington Fellowship will double in size to include 1,000 young African leaders.

### **Expanding Opportunities**

The president, who the fellows greeted by singing “Happy Birthday,” said that YALI will expand next year to include an opportunity for 80 young American leaders to travel to and learn from Africa. The expansion reflects a wish that Mandela Washington Fellow and YALI Network member Fatou Ba Ndiour of Senegal posed to him in a letter: that the program also send young Americans to Africa “Not to help poor communities as they usually do. But to learn from other societies,” she explained.

The president also talked about the more than 30 YALI Network Online Courses on topics such as public speaking and how to write a business plan. He added that YALI Network members now have access to three [new online Mandela Washington Fellowship Institute Courses](#) “so that all members of the YALI Network can access some of the great ideas [the Fellows] have been sharing.”

In addition to these online resources, Obama also announced the opening of the YALI Regional Leadership Center in Accra. That center and one in Nairobi will be joined later this year by centers in Dakar and Pretoria. Already, the U.S. Department of State has committed to opening eight YALI American Spaces.



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## Journalists: Servants of the Truth

Shaka Ssali on the set of “Straight Talk   
Africa.” Photo courtesy VOA.

*A guest blog post by Shaka Ssali.*

I often say that information is the oxygen of democracy. When I left my country in 1976, I left behind a corrupt regime. Information was manipulated, human rights were abused, justice did not exist.

Fast forward a few decades later and I find myself in a position to ask tough questions of people who play a leading role in shaping the future of the African continent. But I also open the microphone to concerned African citizens who also want to ask questions and get answers that affect their lives directly.

What I have learned is that the most important reason one will respect you as a journalist is because of your integrity. Your integrity is based on your credibility. Your credibility comes from your truthfulness. All these come from you submitting yourself as a servant of the truth, a servant of issues.

What I’ve learned during my career is that we “the people” can bring about change. Don’t be afraid to push the limits, to ask probing questions, even in instances where you may not be welcomed. You don’t have to be a journalist, you don’t have to be a member of the press. Remember, above all, you are a citizen.

Your generation has more tools of inquiry available to question the status quo. In the 1960s, Marshall McLuhan coined the famous phrase “the medium is the message.” This is more true now than ever before. Digital technologies and social media have broken the barriers of access to information. You can check facts and find other points of views. You can mobilize large groups of people toward pursuing certain goals. The term “citizen journalist” belongs to your generation. Change comes when the people press for change.

*Shaka Ssali is a Ugandan-born American journalist who has worked for the Voice of America for 23 years. He is the managing editor of Voice of America’s English to Africa service and the host of “Straight Talk Africa.” On his show, Shaka and his guests discuss topics of interest to Africans and the African diaspora including politics, good governance, rule of law, economic development, press freedom, health, social issues and conflict resolution.*

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# YALI Network Members Learn About Leadership in Exclusive #YALICHAT



To celebrate the launch of the new online courses, select YALI Network members were invited to participate in a private Facebook Q&A with Sadhana Hall, a YALI Network online course instructor and leadership expert.

From April 28 to 30, more than 20 YALI Network members had the opportunity to engage directly with Hall, posing questions on everything from networking to management. The following are some questions from the YALI Network participants and Hall's responses.

**Question:** Can you identify a team leader, manager or mentor who has been the most helpful to you in a positive way and what made them so?

**Hall:** People who were humble, self-aware of their strengths and weaknesses, did not compete for ideas and were not afraid to talk to me about my weaknesses! They knew how fragile egos can be and were very diplomatic and, at the same time, clear and specific about how I could improve.

**Question:** How can I be a great leader?

**Hall:** Great leaders know their strengths and weaknesses, examine values that are meaningful to them, and how these values are congruent or not congruent with their behavior. Good leaders are never afraid to say they are sorry. [...] I like this saying of Warren Bennis (noted scholar in leadership): "Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right thing." Leaders must develop their own ways of doing thing right and must have a very clear understanding of the ethical considerations that guide them to take actions.

**Comment:** How can I improve my pitching skills, especially introducing my ideas to other people?

**Hall:** Small ideas executed very well and intentionally [are] ones that rapidly demonstrate their value. [...] They speak for themselves and they speak for you and about you. Most importantly, these are a combination of people's ideas and, because you are a leader, you share the triumph with those that helped build the idea in the first place. And very soon, your vision becomes their vision and their vision becomes yours!

**Question:** How do you successfully network with a high-profile person?

**Hall:** Do research about them. Think about what in their background and their experience inspires you and how that connects to your own interests. Think about the questions you could ask them. Then, when you say hello, introduce yourself. ... Ask them the questions [or] ask how you could

contact them.

**Question:** What exactly can we realistically expect from the people in our network?

**Hall:** Networking is about building relationships around common interests. You should be as ready to help as you should be ready to receive help.

**Question:** How have you dealt with difficult situations with managers or team leaders?

**Hall:** Whenever I have had to have a difficult conversation, I have first tried to think about answers to these questions: How do I view the problem? How does the person or people view the problem? What would be the outcomes if we pursued one person's or the other people's approach? Where is the compromise and what would I be able to live with, understanding that I will not be fully happy with the outcome? Why is the person or people upset and what can I do to make life easier for them?

I look for patterns: I can see where I could be creating or adding to the problem, I can see where they are creating or adding to the problem. I am able to see solutions without being emotional. I practice the conversation with someone I can trust. Finally, I am ready to talk to the person or people.

I go into the conversation with the objective of seeking first to understand and then be understood. I ask clarifying questions. If I feel I am becoming emotional — flushed face, defensive language — I immediately withdraw myself from the conversation or take a break, and then start the conversation when I have gathered myself.

I have found that, using this approach, the person or people with whom this difficult conversation needs to take place feel respected, and we have often been able to come up with a compromise and even a clarification of thoughts that have created a misunderstanding.

When you are a manager, people look up to you to create a safe situation for them. You don't have a choice in the matter.

**Question:** When, according to you, [can] an entrepreneur leave his job to dedicate himself entirely to his own project?

**Hall:** Leaving a job for an emerging company ... is a personal choice. [It] depends on whether you feel like taking the risk of leaving a secure job, how much you would be earning, how much your skills are used, how fulfilled you feel, how many people rely on you financially, whether the emerging company has a stable product and a market that has the potential for expanding even more, where you feel most happy and productive, where you like the people working with and around you.

Then I would weigh the pros and cons and see how you feel. I have done this once or twice in my life and it led me to quit course [or] change jobs. ... Change is always scary but it becomes easier if you reflect on your values.

Read Hall's guest blog "[Leadership: A Personal Reflection on Key Concepts.](#)"

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# **Ethics and Law**

A free press has the capacity to influence others. In a democracy it has the right to report information without government approval. Many countries provide legal protections to journalists so they can exercise that right. In a free society, the most basic responsibility of a free press is to report the news accurately and fairly — that is, to practice ethical journalism.

Ethics is a system of principles that guides action. While the law establishes what you can and cannot do in given situations, ethics tells you what you should do based on personal, professional, social and moral values.

*Ethics and Law is the fourth in a series on media development. Simply click on the titles below, in blue, to expand a section and learn more.*

## **Ethical Principles**

Journalists face ethical dilemmas every day under pressure from owners, competitors, advertisers and the public. They need to resolve these dilemmas, so the journalism they produce is ethical.

These are the basic principles of the U.S. Society of Professional Journalists:

- Seek truth and report it. Be honest, fair and courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information.
- Minimize harm. Treat sources, subjects and colleagues as human beings deserving of respect.
- Act independently. Be free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know.
- Be accountable to readers, listeners, viewers and each other.

Making an ethical decision means choosing not between right and wrong, but between right and right.

## **Ethical Decisionmaking**

First, define the dilemma. What values could be compromised? Then, collect more information to help you make a good decision. Consult newsroom policies and guidelines and talk to colleagues, supervisors and even people not directly involved in a story but who know the circumstances.

Some newsrooms deal with ethical quandaries from the top down. When an issue arises, a senior manager decides what to do. This approach is quick, but can be arbitrary. For that reason, many newsrooms have an inclusive ethical decisionmaking process.

By explaining what was done and why, journalists bolster their credibility and justify the public's trust in them.

## **Ethics Codes**

Journalism associations around the world have codes of ethics to guide the work of members. Codes cover everything from plagiarism to privacy, corrections and confidentiality.

Most also cover these things:

- Fundamental values, including respect for life and human solidarity.
- Fundamental prohibitions, including not lying, causing needless harm or appropriating someone else's property.
- Principles of accuracy, fairness and independence.

Where journalists are required to belong to a union or association, ethics codes might have an enforcement provision.

## **Codes of Conduct**

Codes of conduct spell out activities that are encouraged or prohibited or require the approval of a manager. The main reason for these limitations is to protect the credibility of news organizations.

## **Community Standards**

News organizations often face conflicts between newsworthiness and community standards. Editors choose different solutions to situations, depending on what they feel readers can tolerate.

Some choose to explain why they made the decision they did in the text of the story or in an "editor's note."

*Other parts in this series include [What is News?](#), [Getting the Story](#), [Telling the Story](#), and [Taking Good Photographs](#).*

*(Adapted from an [article](#) by Deborah Potter published in the Handbook of Independent Journalism. Potter is executive director of NewsLab, an online resource for journalists in Washington. [Download the complete Handbook of Independent Journalism \[PDF 834kB\]](#).)*

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# **Taking Good Photographs**

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ones can produce compelling images. (bareform/flickr)

We have heard it before. “A picture is worth a thousand words.” Today, more than ever, photographs have the power to inspire, upset or tell complete stories. To make sure your photographs are as compelling as possible, follow these tips from [National Geographic](#).

**Avoid direct sunlight.** Your subjects will be cooler, happier and more attractively lit if they don’t have a sunbeam hitting them in the face. If it’s an overcast day, you’re in luck. This is one of the best outdoor lighting situations for photographing people. If it’s a sunny day, have your subjects stand in the brightest patch of shade you can find.

**Wait for the “magic hour.”** During sunrises and sunsets, the sky is colorful enough for even a camera phone to capture land and sky with fairly good exposure.

**Stabilize your camera phone.** In low light, camera phones slow the shutter speed to let in more light and have a longer opportunity to capture movement. Hold the camera phone with both hands and brace your upper arms against your body when you shoot.

**Apply the rule of thirds.** When composing a picture, imagine two horizontal lines and two vertical lines crossing like a grid on top of it. Place strong lines and divisions like the horizon on the grid lines and let elements of interest fall on the intersections.

**Use simple backgrounds.** When the background of your picture is cluttered and the lighting is questionable, fill the frame of your camera phone by moving in closer to your subject.

**Get the right tone.** Shooting in black and white can help develop your photographer’s eye by letting you concentrate on the relationship between light and shadow without the distraction of color.

**Try different angles.** When photographing adults, experiment with both the angle of your composition and the angle of light to see what’s most flattering.

Want more photography tips? Read [National Geographic’s full list](#).

*This is the fifth in a series on media development. Other parts in this series include [What is](#)*

## **Telling the Story**

News stories are made up of facts, observations and quotes. Reporters use their news judgment to decide what is most important to include in a story and in what order to put information.

They focus on these things:

- What is the news?
- What is the story?
- What is the image?
- How can I tell the story?

*Telling the Story is the third in a series on media development. Simply click on the titles below, in blue, to expand a section and learn more.*

## **Writing**

Reporters decide on a focus for the story before sitting down to write. Then they organize the story, listing the facts and deciding what should be at the top, end and middle of the story. They select the best quotes or sound bites from an interview and decide where they should go.

Good news writing is concise, clear and accurate. Generally, news stories have shorter sentences and paragraphs than other types of writing. Each paragraph contains one main idea. A new paragraph begins when a new idea, character or setting is introduced.

Journalists use simple, direct language that is easy to understand, with more nouns and verbs than adjectives and adverbs.

Because they write stories for a general audience, journalists try to avoid jargon or terms unfamiliar to most people.

A principle of news writing is to show the audience what happened rather than telling them about it.

Accuracy is critically important: grammar, spelling, punctuation, dates, addresses, numbers and other details that go into a news story.

## **Quotes and Sound Bites**

News stories are told primarily in the reporter's words. They include the words of other people in

quotations or sound bites. Quotes make stories stronger by sharing the direct experience of someone involved. A quote high in a story can make it more interesting. Quotes are at least one sentence long.

The best quotes add insight and perspective to stories. They use colorful language and reflect on personal experience or expert knowledge.

Once you've chosen the best quotes, build your story around them.

### **Attribution**

Attribution identifies the source of the information reported. One reason to attribute information is to allow readers and listeners the opportunity to decide whether to believe it. Another reason is to place responsibility for a controversial statement where it belongs, with the person who said it.

## **Structure**

A story has a structure in the same way that people have a spine. But not all stories should be structured in the same way.

In the inverted pyramid, information following the lead develops the point made in the lead.

A modified inverted pyramid is the "hourglass." It begins with the most important information. After a few paragraphs it becomes a narrative, usually told in chronological order.

Another form is the "diamond." It begins with an anecdote, introducing a character whose experience illustrates what the story is about. The story then broadens to show its wider significance. Toward the end, the reporter returns to the character's story to conclude the narrative.

### **Leads**

The lead begins the news story. It is meant to capture attention. A hard lead summarizes the essential facts of the story. A soft lead may set the scene or introduce a character. It may be anecdotal, illustrating or foreshadowing the larger story.

### **Endings**

Have an ending in mind when you begin writing. Endings often echo beginnings — they return to an important place or a person. A story may end with a sound bite or strong quote when it is so powerful that anything more would be a letdown.

*Other parts in this series include [What is News?](#), [Getting the Story](#), [Ethics and Law](#) and [Taking Good Photographs](#).*

*(Adapted from an [article](#) by Deborah Potter published in the Handbook of Independent Journalism. Potter is executive director of NewsLab, an online resource for journalists in Washington. [Download the complete Handbook of Independent Journalism](#) [PDF 834kB].)*

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# Getting the Story

Reporting involves collecting facts and checking them carefully for accuracy. Journalists sometimes witness stories. More typically, they learn details from others who experienced something or are experts on the topic. They then corroborate information by talking to additional sources and by checking public records, reports or archives.

*Getting the Story is the second in a series on media development. Simply click on the titles below, in blue, to expand a section and learn more.*

## The 'Five W's and an H'

The information a journalist collects should answer questions commonly known as the five W's and an H: who, what, where, when, why and how.

### **Who**

- Who is involved in this story?
- Who is affected by it?
- Who is the best person to tell the story?
- Who is missing from this story?
- Who is in conflict in this story?
- Who else should I talk to about this?

### **What**

- What happened?
- What is the point of this story?
- What does the reader, viewer or listener need to know to understand this story?
- What is the most important fact?
- What is the history of the story, and what happens next?

### **Where**

- Where did this happen?
- Where should I go to get the full story?
- Where is this story going next?

### **When**

- When did this happen?
- When did the turning point occur in this story?
- When should I report this story?

## **Why**

- Why is this happening?
- Why are people behaving the way they are?
- Why should anyone watch, read or listen to the story?

## **How**

- How did this happen?
- How will things be different because of what happened?
- How will this story help the reader, listener or viewer?
- How did I get this information?

## **Observation and Research**

Journalists want to witness events so they can describe them accurately. To record what they observe, reporters need a notebook and pencil or pen. Many carry audio recorders, cameras or mobile phones to record events.

Journalists must be skilled note-takers.

- Write down facts and thoughts. Make clear where a piece of information came from.
- Draw diagrams of rooms, scenes or items in relationship to each other.
- Get spellings of names and proper nouns. Ask for birthdates.
- Spell out interview ground rules.
- Annotate the notes as soon as possible. Spell out abbreviations and mark important information, quotes and anything requiring follow-up.

## **Sources**

Reporters use both primary and secondary sources. A primary source is someone with direct experience of an event or a related document. Secondary sources confirm information obtained from primary sources.

### **Interviews**

Good questions reward with rich information. The best questions are open-ended and cannot be answered with a simple yes or no.

With public officials, start with the premise that the public has a right to know what officials are doing. Experienced reporters can persuade reluctant officials to agree to an interview.

Many journalists begin with an “icebreaker” question that lets the source relax and helps the journalist establish credentials with the source.

### **Ground Rules**

Most interviews are “on the record,” meaning the reporter can use anything said and attribute it directly to the person speaking.

The reporter and source must agree in advance if there are different ground rules for using information provided during an interview. “Embargoed,” for example, means information may not be used until a specific time. “On background” or “not for attribution” means that a reporter can use the information if the source is not identified (sometimes sources will permit being described in a general way). “On deep background” means the information can be used, but not in a direct quote, and the source cannot be identified in any way. “Off the record” means the information cannot be used at all in a story or even repeated to another source; it is given only to provide the reporter with context.

Other parts in this series include [What Is News?](#), [Telling the Story](#), [Ethics and Law](#) and [Taking Good Photographs](#).

*(Adapted from an [article](#) by Deborah Potter published in the Handbook of Independent Journalism. Potter is executive director of NewsLab, an online resource for journalists in Washington. [Download the complete Handbook of Independent Journalism](#) [PDF 834kB].)*

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## [Share A Story](#)

This May, you have a new way to share important stories: a YALI Network newspaper. Maybe there’s a YALI Network event happening near you or you know a YALI Network member who is doing incredible things in your community. The YALI Network newspaper is your opportunity to tell us - in your own words - how other YALI Network members are making a difference. Look at the individuals around you like a journalist would, find a story that needs to be told, and write a short news article about it.

We are looking for 200 - 400 word pieces that reflect the expert advice from [this series on the media](#). Scroll down to see what the submission process requires. Think about the story you want to tell. Write it. Then come back and share it with the Network. You have until **Sunday, May 24** to submit your story about another YALI Network member.

**Use this expert advice to help you tell your story:**

[What is News?](#)

[Getting the Story](#)

[Telling the Story](#)

[Taking Good Photographs](#)

[Ethics and Law](#)

## **Have questions? Tweet to @YALINetwork**

Your editors are ready to answer any questions you might have about this project!

[Tweets by @YALINetwork](#)

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