

# News Writing versus Feature Writing Handout

**Hard News:** Hard news stories move briskly through the five W's (who, what, where, when, and why) and the H (how), packing in just the facts that will give readers a clear picture of the news. Bare facts are everything in hard news, and even quotes should be focused on the facts of the story.

**Feature Story:** Reader interest is the primary focus of feature stories. Facts are still included but are surrounded by emotion, mood, irony, humor, and detailed description. Personal observation is vital in a feature story. Quotes must say or show something. A feature story communicates the truth (like a news story) but in a different way than hard news.

## Questions:

1. "Winter Line's Outskirts Now in Hands of Yank Infantry" is a hard news story. What qualities does the article have that make it a hard news story?

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2. "The Death of Captain Waskow" is a feature story. What qualities does the article have that make it a feature story?

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## News Writing versus Feature Writing Handout cont.

3. How is the tone different in "The Death of Captain Waskow" than it is in "Winter Line"?

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4. In what ways does "The Death of Captain Waskow" tell some of the facts read about in "The Winter Line"?

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5. Which article is more interesting to read? Why?

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