

Do you want to be a journalist? Write for the YEP News!

Have you seen newspapers and blogs and wanted to write a story of your own? Do you want to tell stories you feel need a voice in your community? It sounds like you want to be a journalist! A journalist is someone who reports on the news. Journalists must gather facts and information about what they are reporting on, and report the news truthfully and without bias.

This is a chance for you to think about what is going on in your life and community and report on the stories that matter. By participating in the YEP news, your news story could be published on our website and shared with other teens across the city. 1-3 stories will be published per month, so make sure you send us your best work! Open to any students participating in a YEP program* in grades 5-8. **The deadline for submissions is January 15th at 7 pm.**

**YEP participating agencies include the Granite YMCA, Manchester Police Athletic League, Roca Kidz Club, Boys and Girls Club of Manchester, SNHU Center for New Americans, Boy Scouts of America Daniel Webster Council, Manchester Community Music School, UNH STEM Discovery Lab, UpReach, Amoskeag Health, Manchester School District, and Girls Inc.*

Your Assignment:

This month, we want you to interview your friends and family!

Whether your family is meeting in person or using technology to connect this holiday season, now is a great time to get to know your family better or to reach out to friends you haven't heard from in a while. This month, we're asking you to write a story that includes an interview of a family member or close friend. Below are some questions to get you started. **Stories should be 300 - 500 words or about 3-5 paragraphs.** Check out [this example](#) for inspiration!

- Interview your family about family history and write a story about something that resonated with you. You can also do some research about the time period when your story takes place. For ideas on how to interview your family, check out [this article](#).
- What is your family holiday tradition? Have family traditions changed?
- What is your favorite story to retell at family gatherings?
- What is the funniest family story or tradition you have?

What Makes a Good Interview?

What is an interview? Why do so many news stories use them? Interviewing people as part of a news story helps the writer to capture many different viewpoints on what they are reporting. It also makes the story more interesting and engaging for the reader. You can learn a lot just by asking the right questions! Below are some things to keep in mind when interviewing someone.

- Ask open-ended questions instead of questions with yes or no answers to get richer responses from your interviewee.
- Have a list of questions ready to go before you start the interview. Write more questions than you think you will need.
- Ask neutral questions. Don't let your own opinions sway the questions you ask so that the people you are interviewing will be able to answer with their own thoughts and opinions.
- Ask follow-up questions, especially if you are given a short answer. Don't be afraid to ask "why is that?" "how come?" and "what do you mean?" These can draw out more information from the person you are interviewing.
- Be prepared to rephrase your question if your interviewee doesn't understand what you are trying to say.

What Makes a Good Story?

As you work on the prompt for this issue, keep in mind what makes a good story. You have to gather all the information that you can about the topic you choose and then write it in a way that makes the reader pay attention. To do that, make sure your story **introduces** the topic and the key players, **describes** what's going on, and has a **conclusion**, wrapping up the story and summarizing any take-aways you want the reader to have. Use the planning tool on the next page to help you organize your thoughts.

Art Submissions:

Are you an artist who wants to convey your news story in a comic strip or artwork? We will happily accept art submissions as long as they are on the monthly topic. You could also team up with a writer and illustrate their story. Journalists have all sorts of skill sets and we want to see yours!

Your Deadline:

Submit your story using [this google form](https://www.tinyurl.com/yepnewsjan) (tinyurl.com/yepnewsjan) by **Friday, January 15th at 7pm**. Along with your submission, consider sending us a photo of yourself or a photo or artwork that goes along with your story! Adding a visual element will increase the interest of the reader and the likelihood that they will remember your story. If you have any questions, please email claire.garand@mediapoweryouth.org.

Your Plan

Use the space below to plan your story.

Remember, when you write a news story, think about **Who, What, Why, Where, and When**.

Who is involved? **What** is happening? **Why** is it happening? **When** did it happen? **Where** did it happen? Asking these five questions helps to organize your story, makes sure you remember to gather important information and will engage readers.

Who:

What:

Why:

Where:

When:

What do you already know about it?

What have you heard about it?

What will you have to find out?