

## **The Answering of Wh-Questions In Newswriting Class of Students Academic Year 2021 Universitas PGRI Sumatera Barat**

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### **Abstract**

*The purpose of this study was to understand how journalism students apply the 5w 1h response in their news writing. This study is a qualitative study. The data source of this study is the thematic text in the mid-semester exam of journalism students in 2021. Data was collected by analyzing the students' test text using the document checklist. Let it be, there are six uses to be seen, the answers being what, who, where, when, why and how. The results showed that out of 16 news tests taken by students, only 6 students fully answered factor 5w 1h. While the other 10 people did not answer all the items 5w 1h in their article, 2 people did not answer how, 4 people did not answer why, 1 person did not answer who, 4 people did not answer when. Meanwhile, everyone answers what and where. The data reveal why these ten news reports were incomplete, because their reports focused not on a single event but on two or three events that they mentioned in their reports. These students do not start the newsletter with important information but discuss other related topics besides current events. As a result, the discussion in the newsletter is not focused and therefore the 5w 1h factor is no longer taken into account.*

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### **Abstrak**

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana mahasiswa jurnalistik menerapkan W5HQ respon dalam penulisan berita mereka. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah teks tematik ujian tengah semester mahasiswa jurnalistik tahun 2021. Data dikumpulkan dengan menganalisis teks tes siswa menggunakan document checklist. Ada enam pertanyaan yang bisa dilihat, jawabannya adalah apa, siapa, dimana, kapan, mengapa dan bagaimana. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dari 16 tes berita yang diambil dari siswa, hanya 6 siswa yang menjawab lengkap faktor W5HQ. Sedangkan 10 orang lainnya tidak menjawab seluruh item W5HQ pada artikelnya, 2 orang tidak menjawab bagaimana, 4 orang tidak menjawab mengapa, 1 orang tidak menjawab siapa, 4 orang tidak menjawab kapan. Sedangkan semua orang menjawab apa dan dimana. Data tersebut mengungkap mengapa kesepuluh pemberitaan tersebut tidak lengkap, karena pemberitaannya tidak berfokus pada satu peristiwa melainkan pada dua atau tiga peristiwa yang mereka sebutkan dalam pemberitaannya. Mahasiswa ini tidak memulai berita dengan informasi penting tetapi mendiskusikan topik terkait lainnya selain kejadian terkini. Akibatnya pembahasan di berita menjadi tidak fokus sehingga faktor W5HQ tidak lagi diperhitungkan.

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

For more than a decade, teachers and editorial experts have debated the future of journalism in the 21st-century knowledge society - an ever-changing world characterized by ever-changing knowledge and endless doubts (Karmas, 2015). Doubts that journalism- as an art or science- can survive the changes associated with a dwindling print readership and the demise of the print readership and the demise of the print media, expert have predicted the decline in value of journalism degree or journalism courses and with differing views on who or what needs to change, when and where change needs to happen, and why or how change needs to happen (Karmas, 2015). Journalism is a field that includes information and press activities. The term “journalist” includes journalists and other media professionals. The press is defined as certain activities performed by subjects, includes full-time professional journalists and analysts, bloggers and others self-publish in print, on the Internet or elsewhere.(Posetti et al., 2020). News is timely reporting of events and opinion has a concern or something important to Company. Something as valuable as public news issued, with

public effect. The questions are a very important point in the news written. No questions, incomplete news, because most news content revolves around answering questions. Most students in this class just prioritize main discussion by topic. They do not pay too much attention to the question *wh* when write their news. They just prioritize their content or main and objective discussion without paying attention to completeness of their written news.

#### **A. News**

News is an Information that must be factual, new, interesting, and Important that is published on the news pages of newspapers or magazines, broadcast on radio or television, or published on the Internet. It covers the lives, loves, and scandals of the famous, rich, and infamous people (Dua, 2020). Similarly, news is a research topic just as relevance is in information science (Hameed Al-Hindawi & Huwail Ghayadh, 2017). Further, Stephens (1997: 13) points out that in the historical texts of journalism, news is defined as “new information about a topic of public interest that is shared with a portion of the population.” However, Farrell (2010: 2) notes that the most cited definition of news is often that of Charles A Dana, who serialized the *New York Sun* from 1869 until 1897, called the news “something that interests a large portion of the community and which has never before attracted the attention of the community. News is of interest to all independent parties and is reported in written or broadcast form. News is of great interest to readers if it is recent events and related to public issues. Hot topics and bad news attract more attention because readers and the public don’t want to miss news updates. This means that topics that are currently being discussed in the community indicate the potential for high-demand news, as people continue to search for information about these topics.

Furthermore, news stories must generally satisfy one or more of the following requirements: 1) Power Elite: Stories of Powerful Individuals, Organizations, and Celebrities: His stories about people who are already famous. 2) Entertainment: stories about sex, show business, relationships, animals, unfolding drama and humorous opportunities, funny photos and funny headlines. 3) Surprise: stories that are surprising or contrasting. 4) Bad News: stories with particularly negative content, such as conflict or tragedy. 5) The good news: stories with a particularly positive tone, such as rescues or healing. Stories considered sufficiently important either in terms of number of participants or potential impact. 6) Magnitude: Stories considered sufficiently important either in terms of number of participants or potential impact. 7) Relevance: His stories about topics, groups, and countries that may be relevant to your audience. 8) Follow-up: articles on topics that are already in the news. 9) Newspaper Agenda: articles that set or fit a news organization's own agenda (Harcup & O’Neill, 2017).

Moreover, approaching the issue of news values from observations of Danish TV journalists, Schultz (2007) argues that five news values dominate: timeliness, relevance, identification, conflict, and sensation as the following: 1) Timeliness is the most often described as current affairs, as new information. The closer to the media deadline the story is, the more timely it is. 2) Relevance is a news standard described in journalism in terms of expected relevance to the general public or to a specific audience of a particular media, as readers. 3) Identification is a news criterion described as a matter of proximity between the public/viewer and the event. The closer the events are socially, geographically, culturally, etc. the more up-to-date the story is. 4) Conflict is used to build newsworthiness every day. This means choosing his stories and perspectives that focus on conflicts of interest between people, causes, organizations, etc. 5) Sensation is the fifth news standard discussed and reflected in Danish journalism readers. A sensation is something unusual, spectacular, or extraordinary; the more sensational it is, the more newsworthy it is. An example of a standard commonly used in Anglo-American literature is “Man-Bite-Dog”. (Schultz, 2007)

#### **B. Wh-questions**

Wh-Questions are questions that begin with the word wh (What, Who, Where, When, Why, How). A wh-question is a statement that does not require a simple answer such as "yes" or "no," but instead asks for more specific information. In some languages, you actually mark the sentence as an interrogative by moving the wh element to the first position of the sentence (de Moura Menuzzi & de Ávila Othero, 2007). Using WH questions in text makes the information more complex. Readers can find all the information or details about a topic by reading News. WH questions answer all important types of messages. What type of answer, who answered, where did the answer occur, when did the answer occur, why did the answer occur, and how did the answer occur, in what order?

Further, If a question begins with the word wh and ends with a question mark, they are sentences containing wh-questions. In language, wh-words function both as indefinite words and as question marks (Neil, 1991). Moreover, If there is a wh-sentence and word emphasis in a sentence, you can tell that the sentence is a wh-question (Liu et al., 2016). You can also write a news writing question in the title, which is a good strategy to attract curious readers. Questions are great to use as headings because they have the potential to activate cognitive processes and capture attention and interest (Finkbeiner, 2020). An interesting question in the headline will increase the reader's interest and attention, and encourage them to read the news to the end. Interesting word choices, a little dramatic but factual make the news memorable for readers. Good news is news that satisfies the 5W+1H elements of the message. Thus, To ensure that all important elements of the news are covered in the story, journalists ask news writers their six basic questions (who, what, where, when, why, and how) devised a rule that requires answering. These rules are referred to as the 5 W and H (Karmas, 2015).

Furthermore, In the journalistic 5W1H questions can explain the main events of the article. By answering the questions of who, when, where, why, and how. Provides a detailed description of the improved version. The system uses syntax and main-specific rules to automatically extract relevant phrases from English news articles and provide answers to these 5W1H questions. Based on the answers to these questions, the system determines the main events of the article (Hamborg et al., 2020). Then, good news is news that meets the 5W+1H elements of a news article. To ensure that all major news elements are covered in articles, journalists ask news writers to answer six basic questions: who, what, where, when, why, and how. We have devised rules that require it. This rule is called the "Rule of the Five W's and H's. (Shaw et al., n.d.). This is important for understanding the information in the message and properly communicating it to the public. Every news article must answer a basic question What, Who, When, Where, Why, How (Rich, 2010).

### **C. Journalism**

The activity or profession of writing for newspapers, magazines, news websites, or preparing news articles for broadcast is journalism. Journalism can be considered an activity based on the ethical principles of verified information presented to the public (Posetti et al., 2020). You are in the process of searching for a message, creating a message, editing the message, and finally reporting the message. Journalism is information communicated to the public on the basis of rules and ethics, with the purpose of updating the public about current affairs, whether related to the environment, government, economy, politics, etc. It means the spread of.

In addition, journalism related to mass media reporting. It can be said that the core of journalistic activities is collecting, reporting, writing, publishing, and disseminating news. Journalism is only one part of the academic field. However, the journalistic activity process is more complex. Journalism is a set of values that includes reporting the news, uncovering the truth, and providing public services (Deuze, 2019).

Additionally, journalism is not just about reporting the news (about the day, week, city or country even), it's about telling a meaningful story about something new or happening in the world and understanding it in context and is available for you to explain to others and use by

other people as they see fit (Van Der Haak et al., 2012). Because of their pro-civil nature, journalists' primary purpose is to provide factual, interesting, and useful information tailored to the needs of the public. Journalists' loyalty should lie with the community, not with media owners. One of the roles of journalists is to serve as an information medium that honestly conveys the truth to the public.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

In this study, the researcher used descriptive studies with qualitative research approach as the method of conducting the study. Studies were mainly concerned with causes and factors, and included some phenomena, characteristics, and they were not comparisons or factors of change (Islamia, 2016). Besides, the researcher selected this research design to obtain information about students' working methods when creating newswriting by answering Wh questions. Qualitative research is a tool that helps researchers answer these questions about wh-question completeness when writing news for students. Qualitative research is an investigation of 's natural environment and an exploratory study of the experiences have lived in the world and experienced in their daily lives. The purpose of qualitative research is to provide a comprehensive description and deep understanding of a phenomenon of interest, people's cultural or lived experiences in their natural environment (Magilvy & Thomas, 2009).

Data for this study was collected from documents. The researcher used documents from mid-semester exam of 2021 students of news writing class of Universitas PGRI Sumatera Barat. Data for this study were recorded using a documentation checklist. Researcher focuses on their answering of WH questions of students Newswriting. After the researcher collected her data, she went through several data analysis steps. They were reading/memoing, describing, interpreting.

## 3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

After the researcher did analysis with students mid-semester exam in Newswriting class academic year 2021 at Universitas PGRI Sumatera Barat, the researcher found that the students in this class answering the wh-question, out of 16 news test taken by students, only 6 students fully answered factor 5w 1h. While the other 10 people did not answer all the items 5w 1h in their article, 2 people did not answer how, 4 people did not answer why, 1 person did not answer who, 4 people did not answer when. Meanwhile, everyone answers what and where.

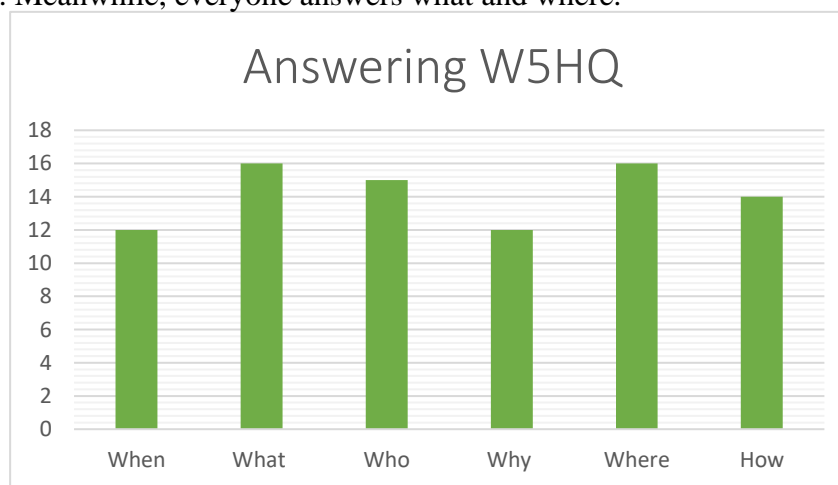


Chart 1. Number of Students Answering W5HQ

### A. Answering “When”

On the question “When” student 1-9, 13 and 15 answering the question by giving detail of days, date, and time as table below:

Students	When
Student 1	On Saturday Night
Student 2	On Tuesday night at 3 a.m Morning
Student 3	On 31 december on 15:30 WIB
Student 4	On Friday morning at 8. AM
Student 5	Thursday at 03:00 a.m
Student 6	3 May 2021
Student 7	Yesterday, On Sunday May 07, 2023
Student 8	This Thursday, on thursday morning
Student 9	Monday at 13:00 p.m
Student 10	-
Student 11	-
Student 12	-
Student 13	yesterday
Student 14	-
Student 15	Sunday morning
Student 16	today

Table1. Students‘Answering ‘‘When’’

### B. Answering “What”

On the question “What” all students answering the question by giving detail of what the topic of the news they wrote as table below:

Students	What
Student 1	Visited
Student 2	An earthquake with 7,3 SR strength destroyed many building
Student 3	Have a accident
Student 4	Speak about cleanliness
Student 5	earthquake
Student 6	firehouse
Student 7	has noble to be king
Student 8	There’s murdered kills a woman
Student 9	Was happen sexual harassment with two victims
Student 10	had happened accident, difficult to activity daily
Student 11	Flood
Student 12	Come to attack
Student 13	found died
Student 14	accident
Student 15	a earquake maglitude 9-5 caution tsunami
Student 16	traveling

Table 2. Students‘Answering ‘‘What’’

### C. Answering “Who”

On the question “Who” only student 2 did not answer the question as table below:

Students	Who
Student 1	The President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo
Student 2	-

Student 3	The teenagers
Student 4	the head of Kapur IX Subdistrict
Student 5	Many people, baby, children, parent, and some pet like a cat.
Student 6	2 child dead
Student 7	Prince Charles
Student 8	Policemen
Student 9	The victims is woman age 25 and 27
Student 10	The people
Student 11	Government and Societies
Student 12	Israel
Student 13	A student
Student 14	It passengers wans, 6 die, and 3 crities. 3 family.
Student 15	BMKG Sumbar
Student 16	Nagita Slavina and Family

Table 3. Students' Answering "Who"

**D. Answering "Why"**

On the question "Why" student 2, 5, 7 and 9 did not answer the question as table below:

Students	Why
Student 1	Because one of Tiktokers from Lampung, Bima speak up about the road in lampung which is always broke
Student 2	-
Student 3	lost control from him motorcycle
Student 4	because long time no happen the government speak about cleanliness
Student 5	-
Student 6	Firehouse happen gas boom this area
Student 7	-
Student 8	A woman not pay his money since two years ago
Student 9	-
Student 10	The impact of corona virus is very strong to change live for example in economi, social and cultural.
Student 11	Flood being problematic on public and comfort to facilities public and weather
Student 12	Many people there are not received about their inconvenient behav
Student 13	because he often bully by his friend and choose suicide who find his parents
Student 14	because lost control of peak
Student 15	because pergeseran lempeng bumi and sebagian say because letusan gunung berapi in the sea
Student 16	because the country place favorite

Table 4. Students' Answering "Why"

**E. Answering "Where"**

On the question "Where" all students answer the question as table below:

Students	Where
Student 1	Lampung
Student 2	In Mandailing Natal Sumatera Utara
Student 3	At mawar Street
Student 4	Kapur IX
Student 5	In west Sumatera
Student 6	In Padang
Student 7	United Stated
Student 8	In her house

Student 9	Around her house
Student 10	Indonesia
Student 11	Riau
Student 12	Palestine
Student 13	at his room
Student 14	outside city
Student 15	In Padang City, but the senter earthquake at Mentawai.
Student 16	Paris

Table 5. Students' Answering "Where"

**F. Answering "How"**

On the question "How" only students 13 and 15 did not answer the question as table below:

Students	How
Student 1	Finally, Joko Widodo come to Lampung for checking the program making the road for Lampung
Student 2	This earthquake made many building broke. Fortunately this earthquake did not get any worst effect for the people
Student 3	Caused want to back the hometown with him friend
Student 4	The head of Kapur IX subdistrict also delivery about a gift. He said "For the citizen the most exited will get a gift.
Student 5	earthquake happened when the people was slept at their house. one house the roof was broke and earthquake be potential tsunami
Student 6	incident firehouse. And 5 fire cars going to this area firehouse
Student 7	The event of the Noble was attended by many king and king in other country. Prince William and Prince Harry also came to the hall watch the noble. The event get more attention from U.S. citizen and also other country's citizen.
Student 8	A man also take things victim likes television, handphone, and anything there are in her house. After two day killing policemen get a news and find a woman much blood in her body.
Student 9	The victims want to go home after work, but after she around her house, come many man.
Student 10	Even know, the impact of corona happened to education in Indonesia. The learners had Dependent learning at the home. With benefit from technology, activity in the school, did in the home.
Student 11	have to cooperate to decrease it
Student 12	Israel souldier gives their warning to leave their land. Israel souldier still sue them and give a bomb and shoot who people fight them. Some of them feel fear and hysteris after their release a shoot and kill 3 kids. Some of witnesses saw that the three kids reject their warning and faught the souldier.
Student 13	-
Student 14	In bus have 3 family going to tour to outside city. not only driver bus die. Was happen broke so badly to bus.
Student 15	-
Student 16	They coming using jet

Table 6. Students' Answering "How"

Based on the data above the researcher concluded that only 6 students fully answered factor W5HQ. While the other 10 people did not answer all the items W5HQ in their article. The first sentence that the students write on their news text very influence to their sentence until the end of the text. Six students write the news start by telling their feeling, tell about preparing new year celebration, planning to vocation, or write many accidents but not mention detail of each accident, they did not start with the important point based on answer of wh-questions. It means that their news did not focus about the theme. Most of them tell in their news about the point above more than the theme that should they tell. It makes their news not used all of the answer of wh-questions elements fully.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

After conducting the study and receiving the results, the researcher wanted to make a suggestion that the W5HQ question is a fundamental important element to include when composing news. If the news lacks to answer the question element, readers will miss the information. Researcher suggests that it is better for students to answer all wh-questions when writing news. If a student uses the entire W5HQ question element when writing a news, it will be beneficial to the reader because all the information and details that the reader needed and wanted to know will be answered through the news. By using the whole W5HQ element in news, readers can get information comprehensive and easy to understand.

In brief, based on the result of this instrument, the researcher found that out of 16 news tests taken by students, only 6 students fully answered factor W5HQ. While the other 10 people did not answer all the items W5HQ in their article, 2 people did not answer how, 4 people did not answer why, 1 person did not answer who, 4 people did not answer when. Meanwhile, everyone answers what and where. They did not use all of the wh-questions element because their newswriting start with the story without any outline which can help them to be more focus to the main point in the first sentence. It makes the focus of the news is changed to story that they make in first sentence not based on the theme.

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