

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Sift**®



# Dig Deeper

Dec. 5, 2022

## EDUCATOR GUIDE KEY AND STUDENT PAGES FOR News Goggles What's it like being a sports reporter?

In this document you'll find:

- Teacher directions for this lesson.
- Editable student pages.
- An answer key for the student pages.

Teacher directions:

1. **Make sure each student has a copy of the [featured story](#). Students will need it as they work through the viewing guide.**  
Note: Your students should read or skim the entire article first to get a general sense of what it's about before digging deeper into questions in the viewing guide.
2. **Distribute student copies of the viewing guide in this document (pages 2-5).**
3. **Conclusion:** Have students use their notes from this viewing guide to brainstorm a response to the essential lesson question. Then, discuss as a class. To extend this question further, have students develop their thoughts in several paragraphs or an essay.





# Dig Deeper

Dec. 5, 2022

## News Goggles What's it like being a sports reporter?

**Featured Video:** "News Goggles: Candace Buckner, Washington Post."

**Featured Text:** Opinion: "[Kyrie Irving lit a flame. The NBA, top to bottom, watched the fire spread.](#)"

(Candace Buckner, The Washington Post).

### Directions:

1. Read the featured text.
2. Watch the featured video, using this viewing guide to take notes about what being a sport columnist involves.
3. Describe what it's like to be a sports reporter.



*Resource Connection Tip: Complete [InfoZones](#) in Checkology® to learn to determine the credibility of a piece of information by identifying its primary purpose or "InfoZone": news, opinion, entertainment, advertising, propaganda and raw information.*

\* **beat:** a newsroom term for the particular topic that a journalist covers.

### PART A: Background information

What does Buckner do at The Washington Post?

What are some different beats that journalists might cover?

## PART B: Columnists vs. beat reporters

List traits of columnists. (**Note: you'll need to return to this box after Buckner discusses steps she took to write the Kyrie Irving column.**)

Columnists...

- 
- 
- 

Use the space below to record the differences between columns and straight news.

Columns

- 
- 
- 

Straight news (Beat reporting)

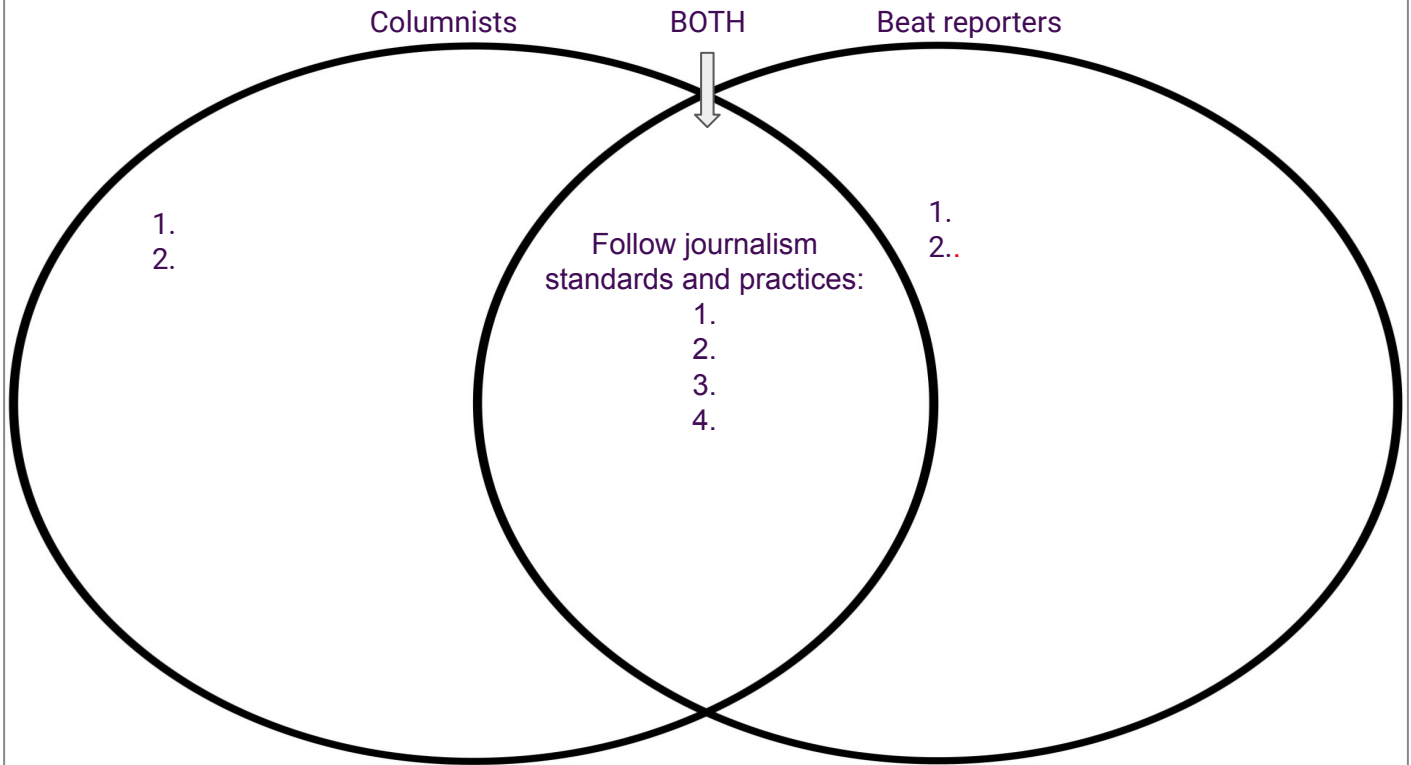
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How does Buckner decide what to write about and what's newsworthy?

What steps did Buckner take to report and write the column for the [featured text](#) on Kyrie Irving?



Compare and contrast columnists with beat reporters.



What are some opinion journalism examples?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are some ways readers can tell if a piece is news or opinion? Can you find the label in the [featured text](#)?

**Kyrie Irving lit a flame. The NBA, top to bottom, watched the fire spread.**

Perspective by **Candace Buckner**  
Columnist | + Follow  
November 6, 2022 at 5:20 a.m. EST

## PART C: What can sports teach us about our world?

What are some things Buckner wishes everyone knew about journalism and/or sports reporting?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Consider the [featured text](#) and what Buckner said about sports. How can sports teach us about our world?



**Conclusion: What's it like being a sports reporter?** Use evidence from all parts of this viewing guide to support your answer.



**Challenge:** Find five different newspapers (printed or online). Write down different ways news and opinion are identified.



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## News Goggles What's it like being a sports reporter?

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\* **beat:** a newsroom term for the particular topic that a journalist covers.

### PART A: Background information

What does Buckner do at The Washington Post?

At The Washington Post, Buckner is a sports columnist. Previously, she was a beat reporter for the Washington Wizards basketball team, then a blogger covering the coronavirus and then a reporter on issues related to race, gender and culture in the world of sports as part of a newly developed beat.

What are some different beats that journalists might cover?

Some different beats include education, courts, health, politics, the environment and sports.

## PART B: Columnists vs. beat reporters

List traits of columnists. (**Note: you'll need to return to this box after Buckner discusses steps she took to write the Kyrie Irving column.**)

Columnists...

- Share their opinions.
- Are still journalists.
- Gather facts and use reporting skills to inform their thinking about various topics (e.g., make calls and conduct interviews).

Use the space below to record the differences between columns and straight news.

Columns

- Are a form of **opinion** journalism.
- Should present thoughtful, nuanced opinions that make people think.
- Help readers consider different positions or perspectives.

Straight news (Beat reporting)

- Aims to **inform**.
- Should **not** include the reporter's opinion.
- Aspires to be fair and impartial.

How does Buckner decide what to write about and what's newsworthy?

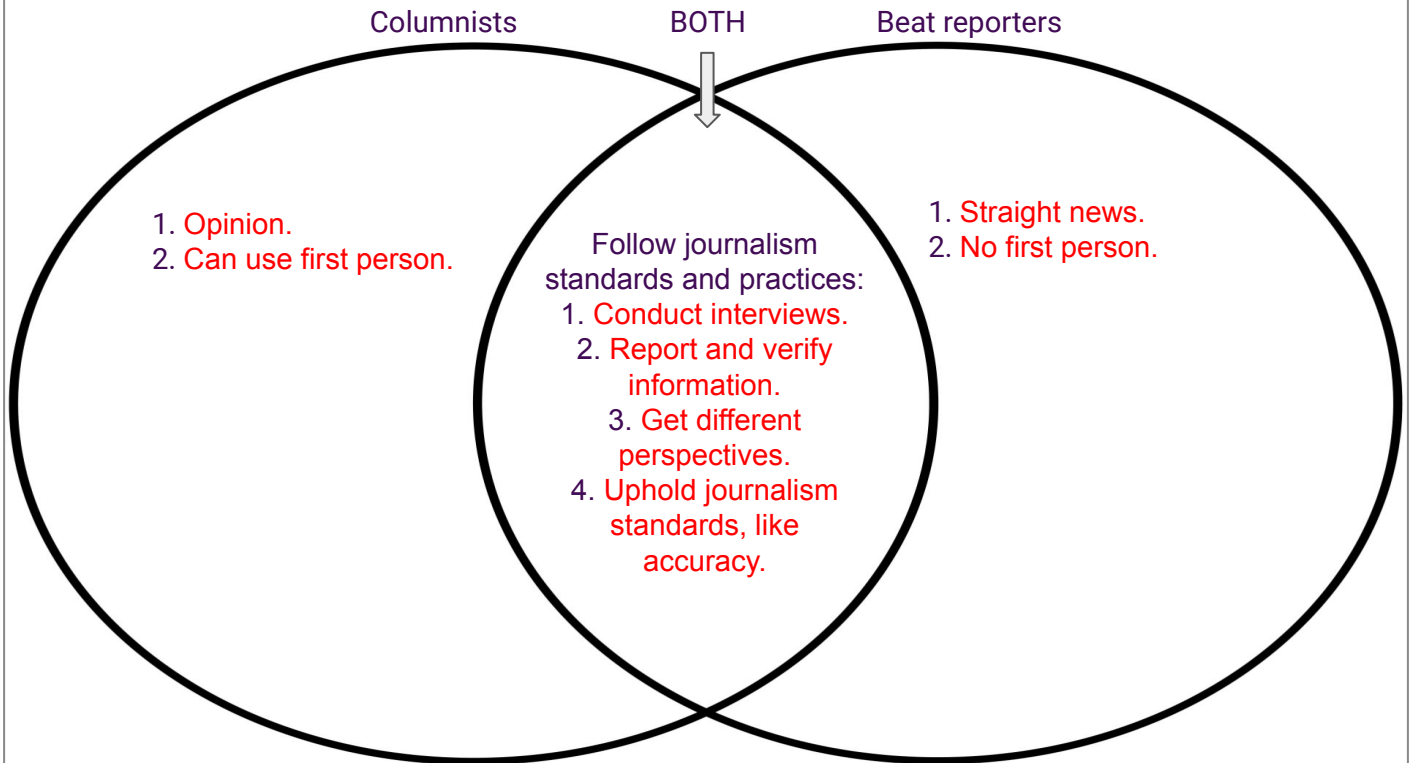
Buckner's ideas might begin with strong emotional reactions, questions like, "Why did that happen?" or intellectual curiosity. She also tries to figure out how whatever happened in sports intersects with the world. It could be something simple, such as the Wizards winning four straight games, or complicated, like an athlete espousing anti-vaccination theories.

What steps did Buckner take to report and write the column for the [featured text](#) on Kyrie Irving?

Buckner sought to find the right tone. She considered what her focus would be, what was timely, what was authentic to her and what made her feel something. By Saturday afternoon, she didn't have anything written, but good collaboration with an editor helped her understand what was bothering her and what she should focus her column on.



Compare and contrast columnists with beat reporters.

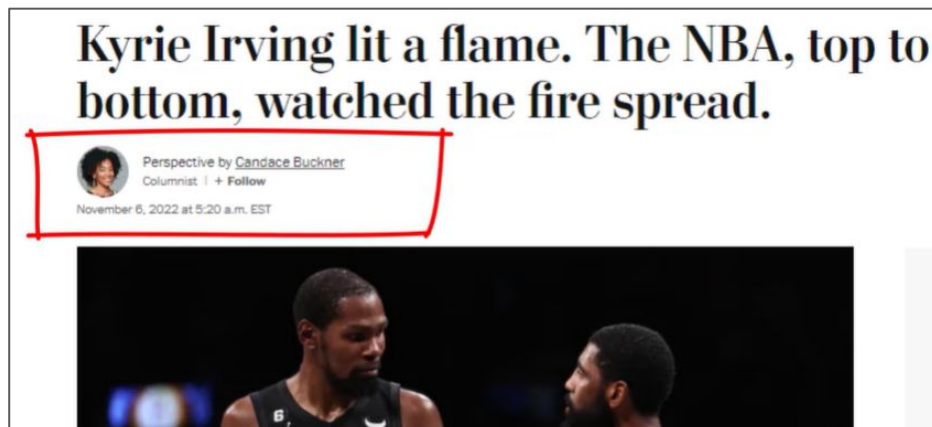


What are some opinion journalism examples?

- 1. Columns.
- 2. Editorials.
- 3. Political commentary.

What are some ways readers can tell if a piece is news or opinion? Can you find the label in the [featured text](#)?

Newspapers should be transparent with these differences by highlighting them in some way. At The Washington Post, "Perspective by" indicates an opinion piece. (Think: It's someone's perspective.)





## PART C: What can sports teach us about our world?

What are some things Buckner wishes everyone knew about journalism and/or sports reporting?

1. Journalists are conduits for sharing important information with their communities.
2. Journalism is part of our country's checks and balances process, holding the powerful accountable.
3. Journalists strive to ask questions in the interest of the public.
4. Journalists are ordinary people.

Consider the [featured text](#) and what Buckner said about sports. How can sports teach us about our world?  
Answers will vary. Accept all reasonable responses.



**Conclusion: What's it like being a sports reporter?** Use evidence from all parts of this viewing guide to support your answer.



**Challenge:** Find five different newspapers (printed or online). Write down different ways news and opinion are identified.

