**M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, DECEMBER – 2019**

**First Year JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION**

**Reporting and Editing**

**ASSIGNMENT-1**

**Question 5**

What do you know about human interest stories

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**Introduction**

Human interest stories may be "the story behind the story" about an event, organization, or otherwise faceless historical happening, such as about the life of an individual soldier during wartime, an interview with a survivor of a natural disaster, or profile of someone known for a career achievement. Human interest stories are sometimes criticized as "soft" news, or manipulative, sensationalistic programming.

**A brief history**

Human interest writing has been around for a long time. Even the Bible, insofar as it is a historical record, is populated with in-depth profiles of its prominent figures.

In modern journalism, printer Benjamin Day may have pioneered the human interest story when he launched The New York Sun in 1833. Helen MacGill Hughes, author of the highly regarded 1940 book, "News and the Human Interest Story," described The Sun as consisting of "chatty little reports of tragic or comic incidents in the lives of the people." James Gordon Bennett followed two years later with publication of The New York Herald. Bennett's goal was to broaden news coverage to "areas of life not hitherto reported."

**Characteristic Features of Human Interest Stories**

The charesteristic features of human interest features are :

1. It describes an extraordinary experience
2. It shows how people have coped with a problem common to many people
3. It focuses on a timely issue of wide regional or national concern
4. It emphasises such news elements as relationships, drama, conflict, or

Oddity

5) There must be something appealing to the emotions, not only of the writer but also of the readers as well

6) This could be developed from a situation or an incident, but must be based on facts of timely nature

7) A human-interest story entertains the reader more than informs, except for the fact that it is usually based

on facts of a timely nature

8) It has little news value and probably would not be published except for the

interesting style in which it is written

9) It must be short and crispy, averaging between 75 to 200 words. However, it is not as such a strictly

defined parameter.

10) It can be written about almost anything ­ from living to inanimate ­ that is, persons, places, animals and

Objects

11)

**Conclusion**

In journalism, a human interest story is a feature story that discusses a person or people in an emotional way. It presents people and their problems, concerns, or achievements in a way that brings about interest or sympathy in the reader or viewer.

**References**

[Human interest stories from Romania](http://www.unicef.org/romania/reallives.html)

<Retrieved from https://www.unicef.org>

1. **HumanInterestStory Retrieved from https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/**