

News Writing Exercise

Directions: You have been assigned to report on an incident in Afghanistan in which a soldier was wounded by a roadside bomb.

Step 1: Gather Information

Write down observations, information and quotes provided in the video clip from the documentary **Armadillo**, which follows a platoon of Danish soldiers as they serve a six-month tour in Afghanistan in 2009. If you need to watch the clip additional times, you can find it on the *POV* website:

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/armadillo>

Observations and general information from the video:

Witness account (one soldier's description of the scene to another soldier), including quotes:

First-person account (Commander Rasmus's description of what happened), including quotes:

Which information from the video is not needed or relevant to the story you are writing?

Which information is ambiguous or missing? What would you consider a reliable source of that information?

Step 2: Organize Your Ideas

What is the lead?

Who:

What:

Where:

When:

Why:

How:

What visuals would you use to help tell the story, if any?

Is any additional background information needed?

Step 3: Write Your News Story

Use a computer or a separate sheet of paper.

Step 4: Reflect

1. How did the sources of information for your story differ from the sources used to write the news stories you analyzed earlier? How did the selection of sources affect the reporting of events from the war in Afghanistan?

2. In your view, which sources of information should journalists consider most important when covering a war? Why?