

English Skill: “Identify fact and opinion”

Used in the workplace at The Gazette:
A Gloucestershire based newspaper and online series



Josh Wright, Reporter at The Gazette

“In newspaper journalism, everything revolves around facts and it’s really important that we accurately report on what’s going on, rather than giving our own views or the opinions of others. If someone tells us something, it’s part of the reporter’s job to verify it and make sure it’s factually correct. We can’t just take their word for it being true.

It’s good to get people’s opinions too though, as this makes our reporting livelier and more engaging to our local audience. However, we need to differentiate the facts from opinions, for example by placing opinions in speech marks, or by stating that someone says that something has happened.

Showing a balanced view or case in our reports is really important. There are serious consequences for getting the facts wrong, including being sued for liable slander, as well as damage to our reputation”.

About The Gazette Series

The Gazette is a series of 3 weekly newspapers, covering Dursley, Wotton-under-Edge, Berkeley, Thornbury, Yate and Sodbury areas. Online versions are also produced. The Gazette is part of the much larger Newsquest Group, which includes the Stroud News and Journal and hundreds of other publications.

Who do The Gazette Employ?

Currently 10 staff working for the Gazette Series in Stroud, including:

- Reporters
- Assistant Editor
- Advertising Sales
- Administrator
- Editor
- Advertising Manager
- Receptionist

Range of Salaries: c£15.k a year for junior reporters, rising to c£45k for experienced editors.

Skills Shortages: To be a local journalist/reporter you need to be able to communicate well with lots of different people, and be both personable and assertive when needed. Writing skills are paramount - you need to be able to write clearly, and turn complicated text into easy to understand and engaging reports. Junior staff don’t always come with these skills when they start. As long as you’re willing to learn and take guidance from the editor, then you can develop these skills on the job.

Useful Links

www.gazetteseries.co.uk
www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk

www.nctj.com
www.pressgazette.co.uk