

HOW IT HAPPENS at the TV Station

By Shawndra Shofner • Photographs by Bob and Diane Wolfe



The publisher would like to thank the employees of WCCO TV for their generous help with this book. All photographs by Bob and Diane Wolfe except page 28 (bottom), WCCO.

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Summary: Text and photographs tell of the different people who are a part of a television newscast and some of the special equipment used to produce television news.

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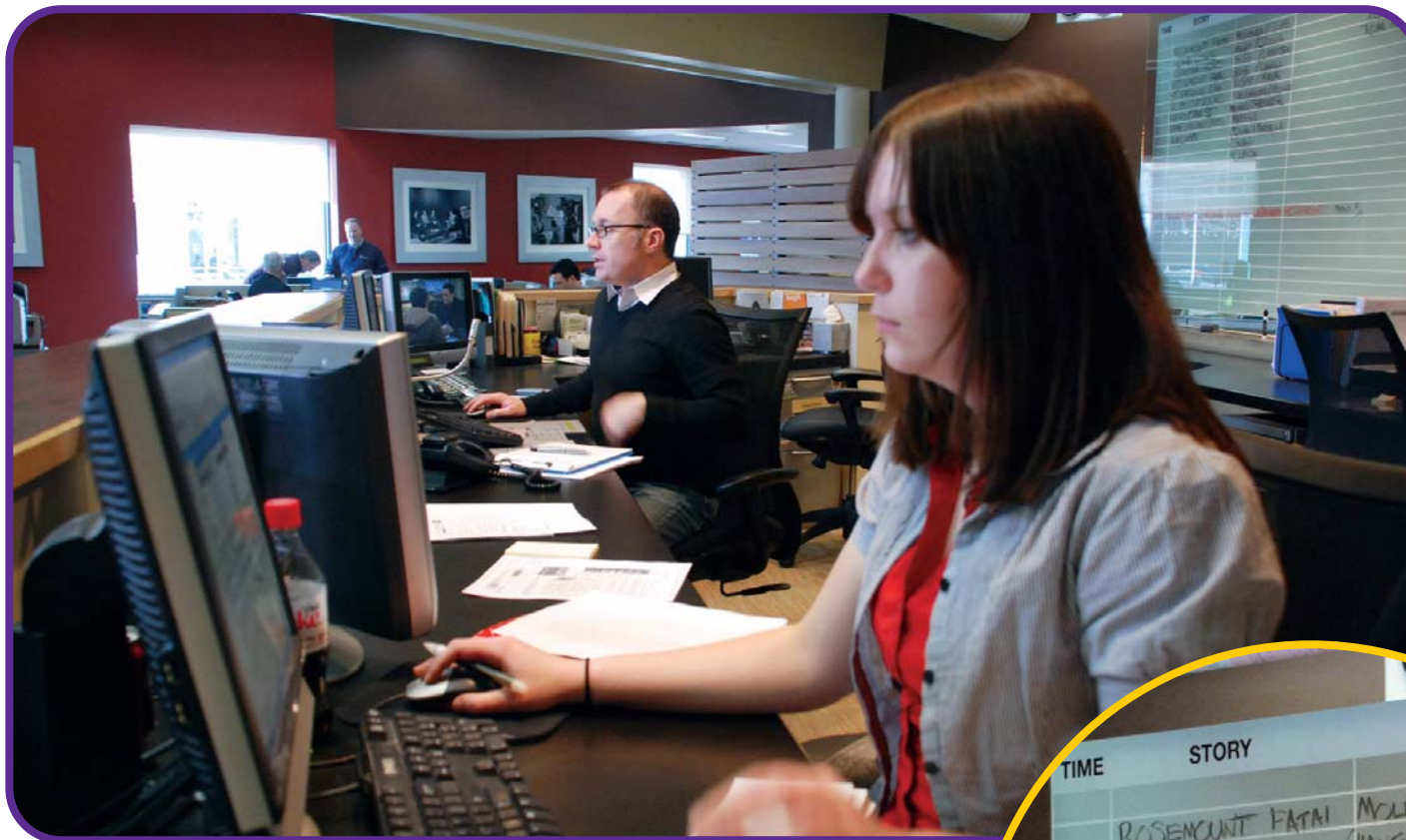


Every day, millions of people turn on the TV news. Some want information about politics. Others tune in for weather reports. Still others watch the newscasts to learn about special events and local projects. Just what does it take to put on a newscast? Let's go behind the scenes at one station to find out. Lights! Camera! Action!

News Production

The assignment desk is where the action begins in this newsroom. News assignment editors are people who collect story ideas 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Story ideas come in by telephone, email, and police and fire scanners. It's important for assignment editors to know what's happening in their community. They do this by surfing the Internet, reading newspapers, and watching other televised news programs.





The assignment board keeps the entire newsroom informed about what stories are being covered, by whom, and where. If breaking news comes in, for example, about a building fire or car crash, the board helps the assignment editors find the closest **reporter** to send to cover the story.

TIME	STORY	CREW
	ROSENCUNT FATA	MOLENDA / SCIE
	HOME LOANS	CHANEY / SONYA
	GUITAR HERO	BISS / LAURITSEN
	ROSENCUNT FATA	GOLE / DARCY
	ST. PATRICKS DAY	KOPP / MAYA
	DOG. OUTDOORS	NEUSWALTER / KESSLER
	HPR: OAK ST	MEARS / REGER
	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / RSS	MEARS
	AM. SHEET	CONAN / ANGELA
		CONAN
		MOLENDA

The station's staff of assignment editors, reporters, **producers**, and **anchors** gathers every day at 10:00 AM and 2:30 PM to talk about what stories they should cover for upcoming newscasts. They each bring in as many story ideas as they can think of. All of the ideas are written on a white board. They discuss each idea and decide which ones are better than others. By the end of the meeting, they will have agreed on what stories—or **assignments**—the reporters will cover.





Reporters work at their desks in a large open space called the newsroom. There they make telephone calls, do computer research, and write stories.

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