The news: gathering and delivering

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each reporting-practice term with its meaning.

1 attribution	____	a temporary restriction on publishing supplied information
2 embargo	____	b naming or describing where information came from
3 off the record	____	c independent confirmation of information from another source
4 stringer	____	d decision about a story's relevance, treatment or prominence
5 newsworthiness	____	e process of selecting what reaches the public
6 editorial judgement	____	f freelance local reporter supplying a news organisation
7 source corroboration	____	g quality that makes an event worth reporting
8 gatekeeping	____	h information not intended for publication or quotation

2 Complete the reporting collocations.

attribution | corroboration | embargo | gatekeeping | judgement | newsworthiness | record | stringer

1 provide clear _____

2 respect a publication _____

3 speak off the _____

4 commission a local _____

5 assess a story's _____

6 exercise editorial _____

7 seek independent _____

8 question newsroom _____

3 Choose the most precise reporting practice.

1 Naming the origin of a claim provides *attribution / gatekeeping*.

2 A report cannot appear before 9 a.m. under an *embargo / off-record rule*.

3 A remark not for publication is *off the record / newsworthy*.

4 A freelance reporter near the event is a *stringer / gatekeeper*.

5 Public impact contributes to *newsworthiness / attribution*.

6 Choosing story prominence requires *editorial judgement / corroboration*.

7 A second independent witness provides *corroboration / an embargo*.

8 Selecting stories for publication is *gatekeeping / stringing*.

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4 Complete the editorial decision with terms from the box.

attribution | embargo | editorial judgement | gatekeeping | newsworthiness | off the record | source corroboration | stringer

A local **1** _____ alerted the newsroom to hospital closures. Editors first assessed the story's **2** _____. One official spoke **3** _____, so the remark could guide enquiries but not appear. Documents supplied under an **4** _____ could be prepared but not yet published. Independent **5** _____ came from two clinicians. Clear **6** _____ identified what each source supported. Deciding the story's prominence required **7** _____, while the inclusion of some voices and exclusion of others illustrated **8** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Who gets heard?

Routine news gathering often favours institutions that can issue rapid statements, provide spokespeople and organise briefings. Less powerful groups may have relevant experience but lack the same access to journalists. Deadline pressure can therefore shape the source mix before any explicit bias occurs. A broader report requires deliberate outreach, transparent attribution and enough time for affected people to respond. Diversity of voices does not mean treating every claim as equally supported; evidence still determines how claims are presented.

1 Which institutions are often favoured? _____

2 Why may less powerful groups receive less attention? _____

3 How can deadlines affect reporting? _____

4 Name three requirements for a broader report. _____

5 Does voice diversity give every claim equal weight? _____

6 What should determine the presentation of claims? _____

6 Rewrite using the analytical term in capitals.

1 Two independent documents confirm the account. **CORROBORATION** _

2 The agency may not publish before noon. **EMBARGO** ___

3 The editor decides how prominently to run it. **JUDGEMENT** _

4 The report identifies every information source. **ATTRIBUTION** _

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** editorial note explaining whether and how a developing story should be published.

[ ] Use at least eight analytical terms. [ ] Assess evidence and newsworthiness. [ ] Address source diversity and publication limits.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Reporting-practice terms

1 **b** 2 **a** 3 **h** 4 **f** 5 **g** 6 **d** 7 **c** 8 **e**

2 Reporting collocations

1 **attribution** 2 **embargo** 3 **record** 4 **stringer** 5 **newsworthiness** 6 **judgement** 7 **corroboration** 8 **gatekeeping**

3 Precise practices

1 **attribution** 2 **embargo** 3 **off the record** 4 **stringer**
5 **newsworthiness** 6 **editorial judgement** 7 **corroboration** 8 **gatekeeping**

4 Editorial decision

1 **stringer** 2 **newsworthiness** 3 **off the record** 4 **embargo** 5 **source corroboration** 6 **attribution** 7 **editorial judgement** 8 **gatekeeping**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Institutions with rapid statements, spokespeople and briefings. 2 They have less access to journalists. 3 It can narrow the source mix.
4 Outreach, attribution and response time. 5 No. 6 Evidence.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The account has independent source **corroboration**. 2 The agency is under an **embargo** until noon.
3 Prominence requires editorial **judgement**. 4 The report provides clear **attribution**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check evidence, source treatment and editorial reasoning.