

Four biggest problems with rough drafts of news articles:

1. Paragraphs too long

- Keep journalism paragraphs at 1-2 sentences.
- Don't worry about starting a new paragraph when you start a new idea. Start a new paragraph when they get too long or when you quote someone new.

2. Too much opinion

- Don't put yourself in the story. Don't say something is "fun" or "special" or that people "work hard." Quote people about this instead.

3. Don't put yourself in the story

- Don't say "I," "me" or "we," for example.

4. Be sure to quote people properly

- Use "said." Avoid synonyms for "said."
- Use people's grade/title and first and last name.
- Punctuate like this: "I love Introduction to Journalism," junior Ima Suckup said. "Mr. Satterthwaite is the best teacher in the history of teachers, including Gandhi and Jesus."