SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM
QUICKSTART GUIDE

GET STARTED ON YOUR SOLUTIONS STORY WITH SHORT TEMPLATES, CHECKLISTS, AND STEP-BY-STEP SYSTEMS



SOLUTIONS
JOURNALISM
NETWORK

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THE BASICS

What is Solutions Journalism?
Print out this one-page infographic and tape it to your wall! It has all the basics: the four pillars of solutions journalism, questions to ask sources and key tips.

Finding a Solutions Story
If solutions journalism seems like a big foggy swamp to you, this short deck will give you a crisp, easy-to-follow path.

Six Steps to Solutions Reporting
Most communities usually know the biggest problems they are facing. Covering them over and over again doesn't often lead to change. Here are six steps to help your community move forward.

Planning a Solutions Story
Use this graphic to make sure you have all the ingredients of a real solutions journalism story.

Doing Solutions Journalism Stories in Days, Not Weeks
Tom Hallberg shares strategies for how to find and write solutions stories on a daily beat.

Tips for Reporting a Solutions Story Without Travel
Looking to do solutions journalism without leaving your living room? Two veteran journalists explain what you need to do.

Pitching A Solutions Story
Getting ready to pitch? This one-pager is a list of useful tips from journalists who pitch in our network — and from editors who get those pitches. We also have a blog post series on this very topic!

Investigative Reporting
A short video course with infographics takes you through finding the right solutions story for your investigation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Checklist of Questions to Ask Your Community
Start a community dialogue with this reporting guide.

Combining Engagement and Solutions Reporting
Generate trust, insight and relationships with your work. Here's how.

Engagement Sprint Doc
Use this worksheet to design meaningful community engagement.

Labor Reporting
Here's a guide to covering U.S. labor through a solutions lens.

COMPLICATING THE NARRATIVE

How to Have Conversations
You're about to interview someone with controversial views on a polarizing subject. These conversation starters can create space for real understanding.

Good Conflict Starter Kit
Learn how to cover conflict effectively by unwinding "us vs. them" narratives, challenging stereotypes and more.

Choosing Sources to Complicate the Narrative
Here's a checklist for choosing sources that can move your reporting beyond oversimplified pro vs. con story-framing.

22 Questions to Complicate the Narrative
Move beyond oversimplified reporting with these questions. This is one of the most popular resources in our network.

DEMOCRACY SOLUTIONS REPORTING

A Better Way to Cover Civic Life MOOC
Learn how to reduce polarization and build trust with this online course.

Elevating Democracy Reporting
Here's a guide to using solutions journalism to help democracy move forward.

Democracy Solutions Reporting Checklist
Here's a guide for incorporating a solutions lens into your democracy reporting.

Creating Solutions-Focused Voter Guides
Here's a guide to producing non-partisan coverage your community will actually use.

TEMPLATES FOR SPECIFIC PLATFORMS

Sample Formulas for Short-Form Solutions Journalism
Got just one or two minutes of airtime? Or 800 words? Or just 500 words? Solutions journalism can be short! Check out these templates.

Solutions Journalism for TV
Here's how to use solutions journalism concepts in your coverage as a TV news producer or reporter.

RESOURCES IN MORE LANGUAGES

The Basic Toolkit provides everything you need to get started with solutions journalism. It is available in 19 languages: Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Czech, English, French, German, Hindi, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, and Turkish.

We are continuously adding more resources here. Here is a selection of what's available:

Spanish

- 22 preguntas de una entrevista para complicar la narrativa
- Lista de preguntas para escuchar a la comunidad
- Paso-a-paso a encontrar la história de soluciones adecuada para tu investigación: video and infográfico
- Periodismo de Soluciones MOOC

Portuguese

- Jornalismo de Soluções MOOC

French

- 22 questions visant à « complexifier nos récits »

German

- 22 Interview Fragen, die die Welt komplizierter machen

Arabic

- تدريب حول صحافة الحلول
- كيف ننتج قصة في صحافة الحلول؟

Polish

- Spis treści