

# The Roles and Functions of Frontline Journalists in the Tripartite Structure of News Gathering, Editing, and Broadcasting: Postprint

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## Abstract

The rapid development of satellite communication technology has provided a novel transmission modality for broadcast television news live streaming, bringing this form of journalism into public view. Broadcast television news live streaming demonstrates the inherent cross-temporal and cross-regional communication advantages of broadcast television, enabling the simultaneous transmission of news reports and events. Based on this, this paper analyzes the roles and functions of frontline journalists within the tripartite architecture of collection, editing, and broadcasting, with the aim of providing valuable insights for relevant practitioners.

## Full Text

### Abstract

The rapid development of satellite communication technology has provided a novel transmission method for broadcast television news live reporting, bringing this format to the forefront. Broadcast television news live reporting demonstrates the spatiotemporal communication advantages of broadcasting, enabling simultaneous transmission of news coverage from events. This paper analyzes the roles and functions of frontline journalists within the reporting-editing-broadcasting three-element architecture, aiming to offer valuable insights for relevant practitioners.

**Keywords:** reporting-editing-broadcasting; three-element architecture; broadcast television news live reporting

## 1. Overview of Broadcast Television News Live Reporting

Broadcast television news live reporting utilizes wireless communication as a transmission tool to connect journalists at news event sites with anchors in the studio, enabling collaborative news broadcasting simultaneously from different locations. This model first emerged in the late 20th century, initially employed only for major news events such as the live broadcasts of Hong Kong and Macau's return to China. Though nascent at the time, it left a profound impression on audiences. In the new millennium, accelerating technological development has brought transformative changes across industries, including the evolution of broadcast news live reporting models. This approach played a significant role during the Sichuan earthquake and the Beijing Olympic Games, allowing overseas Chinese to follow the progress of these major domestic events. Subsequently, regions such as Shanghai, Zhejiang, and Jiangsu adopted this model for daily news broadcasting, substantially advancing its development.

The emergence of new media has profoundly impacted traditional media. Through years of development and refinement, the broadcast television news live reporting model has optimized and integrated news delivery methods to achieve faster and better dissemination of news events. Consequently, the public holds greater expectations for this model, demanding more visual impact and real-time access to news information.

## 2. Importance of the Three-Element Architecture in Broadcast News Live Reporting

Current reporting and editing models suffer from numerous deficiencies. Many departments continue to employ traditional reporting-editing-broadcasting workflows, resulting in insufficient audience appeal. Improving and reforming this model requires integrating reporting, editing, and broadcasting into a cohesive information processing chain, where editors, journalists, and hosts form a complete and unified system to enhance current practices.

### 2.1 Evaluating Journalists' Role in the Three-Element Architecture

The special format of live broadcast connections imposes higher demands on journalists, requiring them to transition from news gathering to simultaneous information transmission. In traditional reporting, journalists primarily conduct detailed and in-depth information collection without the pressure of real-time interpretation, subsequently handing collected materials to editors for processing. However, the three-element architecture demands that journalists transform from information collectors into real-time analysts, promptly identifying valuable information from complex on-site situations to capture public attention and retain audiences, thereby achieving efficient information broadcasting. This model significantly strengthens journalists' information processing capabilities and improves their professional competence.

## 2.2 Evaluating Hosts' and Editors' Roles in the Three-Element Architecture

Within the three-element architecture, hosts and editors also face substantial challenges. Editors must process information more rapidly and accurately, incorporate editorial recommendations, and immediately consider how information will be disseminated by both hosts and journalists. Hosts must simultaneously filter information and communicate promptly with journalists, drawing on their professional experience to extract valuable information. From the audience's perspective, hosts must pose questions that most interest viewers to maximize audience satisfaction; otherwise, the program struggles to retain viewers and its quality suffers significantly. This innovative model greatly enhances the thinking capabilities and professional competence of both editors and hosts, contributing to their future development.

## 3. The Reporting-Editing-Broadcasting Three-Element Architecture in Broadcast News Live Reporting

While the “reporting-editing-broadcasting integration” operational model is widely employed across various professions in the live broadcast context, news programs specifically require separation of these functions as a prerequisite for ensuring program quality. This model necessitates effective utilization of the three-element architecture in broadcast program production, particularly requiring editors, journalists, and hosts to fulfill their respective roles diligently and strive for excellence. In this new model, each participant—whether host, editor, or journalist—has distinct roles, tasks, and responsibilities, yet must work collaboratively to deliver effective broadcast news live reporting that reaches and engages audiences.

### 3.1 Journalists as Information Carriers in Live Broadcasting

Live broadcast reporting has moved journalists from behind the scenes to the forefront, serving as direct information carriers who disseminate news to audiences. This transformation shifts journalists' identity from interviewers to narrators of news events. Determining what to say within limited time frames tests journalists' professional capabilities, typically demonstrated by their ability to “identify key issues within complex situations, rapidly gauge public knowledge of known facts, and determine which information is most crucial from a vast sea of data.” Therefore, journalists must learn to extract information value deeply, which requires thorough preparatory interviews before live connections. During the interview process, journalists should quickly grasp details, as only through such understanding can they effectively disseminate news information.

### 3.2 Editors as Primary Excavators of News Value

In the three-element architecture, editors play a vital role in the dissemination process, enhancing value through their editorial work. Realizing news value re-

quires discovering it first. Value represents a creative outcome that is important for human life and development. In regular programming, editors continuously receive news materials, filter information according to editorial principles, identify the most valuable content, assess news worth, plan coverage, and uncover deeper information value.

As with any endeavor, meticulous planning is essential for broadcast television news live reporting. Planning includes identifying live broadcast clues, determining discussion topics, ensuring timely information transmission, and structuring the broadcast framework within known parameters. For example, when CCTV's news channel covered the opening of the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed rail, they stationed journalists at stations along the route and conducted real-time reports following the train's chronological progress and route. This allowed audiences to intuitively experience the efficiency and speed of high-speed rail, fostering national pride in this achievement.

### 3.3 Hosts Assuming Director Responsibilities in Live Reporting

The final stage of broadcast television news live reporting within the three-element architecture involves the Q&A segment between journalists and hosts. During live connections, hosts serve as secondary interviewers who, through interaction with journalists, guide them to describe scenes in depth, achieving a seamless “one-stop” live report. This role demands considerable skill from hosts.

How hosts pose questions significantly influences journalists' ability to conduct effective live reporting. Hosts must consider issues from the audience's perspective while maintaining professional standards. Questions should account for journalists' capacity to respond while addressing audience needs, meeting the audience's information requirements, stimulating their desire for news, and enhancing the appeal of live reporting. In broadcast news live reporting, excellent hosts should engage journalists as equal dialogue partners rather than merely accepting their answers. During live connections, hosts must leverage their capabilities to pose engaging questions through careful listening and analysis. When journalists provide insufficient detail, hosts should synthesize information for audiences; when journalists' overviews stray from the topic, hosts must find appropriate opportunities to redirect them toward the theme, flexibly addressing emerging issues.

## Conclusion

In summary, broadcast television news live reporting under the reporting-editing-broadcasting three-element architecture involves collaborative effort among three main participants: editors, journalists, and hosts. Although these three entities bear different responsibilities, they share the common goal of improving program quality and enhancing communication impact. In response to pressure and impact from new media, broadcast television journalists,

editors, and hosts face heightened demands regarding their thinking patterns and professional competence. Macroscopically, the internet is integrating with traditional media while transforming the development landscape of broadcasting. Microscopically, new media information is also merging with various information streams. Under these circumstances, effectively employing the three-element architecture model and transforming traditional work patterns and concepts becomes imperative, particularly for hosts and journalists who must enhance their work efficiency and proactively address emerging issues within the reporting-editing-broadcasting framework to promote better development of journalism.

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*Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.*

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