



Weather Reporting: Planning and Preparation

Throughout this activity you have been making forecasts based on your observations of technical data and natural phenomena. Your next step is to prepare a weather forecast report for your locale, in either a print, audio or video format. Preparing this report will be covered in **Activities 9 and 10**. Consult with your teacher to determine the best format for you to use to complete this project.

Today, determine the roles each member of your team will assume in the preparation and presentation. Then, begin to gather the forecast data and write the script.

Roles and Responsibilities:

SENIOR METEOROLOGIST This weather expert gathers all the weather data, determines the top story or key weather issue on which to focus the report, and chooses any graphics, maps or other props that will be needed to present the report. Then, he shares the data with the OCM.

ON-CAMERA METEOROLOGIST (OCM) The OCM will be responsible for meeting with the senior meteorologist, taking his/her data and creating a script and presenting the video/audio report.

PRODUCER If you have a video or audio production class in your lab or school, the producer will coordinate the video or audio production from beginning to end. The producer will decide if the weather report is to be shot live, or if it can be videotaped and edited into a “package” or video story to be integrated into a school news program.

OTHER EXPERTS There are many experts needed to produce a successful weather report, regardless of the format. Other Experts probably include a Graphics Designer, needed by all report formats or a Technical

For Audio Formats ...



If your weather report is audio, you will need a Senior Meteorologist and a Radio Weatherman to write and then read the report over the air, a Producer and someone to help with sound effects to enliven the report.

For Print Formats

If your weather report is in print format, you will need a Senior Meteorologist, a Reporter to write the report copy, an Editor to edit the report and a Graphics Designer to lay out the report and design the maps and/or charts to enhance the report with pictures, maps or graphs.



Director needed only for video or audio report formats. These roles should be filled by members of your team. However, it may be necessary for team members to take on double roles.



The Assignments

By the Way ...

If your weather report is **AUDIO**, your Radio Weatherman will write and then read the script over the air. Use the left side of the storyboard to indicate special sound effects and/or music.



If your weather report is in a print format, your Reporter must write the copy for the report, the Editor will edit and lay it out and a Graphics Designer will design the maps and/or charts to enhance the report.



SENIOR METEOROLOGIST

Produces the data needed to write the script. Use the *Weather Report Data Worksheet* to collect and organize data. You will need:



WORKSHEET



INTERNET CONNECTIONS



THE WEATHER DIARY

- ✓ To obtain the data for the weather report, refer to all sources — your *Weather Diaries* from the beginning of the module; the Internet data from THE WEATHER CHANNEL including satellite imagery, Doppler radar and weather maps; and your meteorological readings from any instruments you have in your classroom.

- ✓ Decide on a Top Story, or main focus. For example, if your area has been having a lot of rain over the last two weeks, that could easily be a Top Story focus.
- ✓ Don't forget to gather data for a local forecast. You must forecast the local weather for at least 5 days ahead. Your local data must be as up-to-date as possible.

ON-CAMERA METEOROLOGIST (OCM)

Creates the script for the main weather report. Use copies of the *Storyboard Form* (9:2 & 9:3) to write your script. On the left side, show what the viewer will see, including maps, props and you! On the right side of the storyboard, write your script.

You will need



AUDIO & VIDEO



NEWSPAPER

The Weather Wizard



For students who completed tests of one or more of the weather folklore as described in the *Weather Diary*, include a short report on your findings in the completed script.



- ✓ You must decide the order in which you will present your information. Will you begin with the local weather data and forecast or with the Top Story?
- ✓ Be sure your Graphic Designer is clear about the maps, charts or pictures you want in the visuals for this report.

- ✓ Try to keep the entire weather report to no more than five minutes.
- ✓ **Note:** If you have completed all 15 activities, you should also write an on-camera "EXPERT OPINION" slot, to give an in-depth analysis of the Top Story phenomena as part of the Weather Report. Be sure this expert is on camera.