

WRITING SCRIPT FOR RADIO BROADCAST

There is no way to manage a 24-hour broadcast on daily basis without specifying certain areas. Perhaps the top most matter is writing scripts for various programs. Almost every program at a broadcasting house begins when a producer hands over the script to the announcer, or anchorpersons for different programs. Missing a script means delay, or cancellation of the program...and a furious program manager.

Writing script for radio is no ordinary exercise. The writer must be familiar with the type of program he/she has been engaged with. The variation in script writing is so wide that specialized script writers are involved in the production of copies for different programs. Then, these scripts have to be kept in order... in order of the time for the day and programs on weekly or daily basis. The script record keeping is a specialized job. So much of scripts is available at a radio station that, like a library, these scripts have to be marked with the title of programs, days of broadcast, timings and the producers. There may be a need for a script of a program which was broadcast last month for certain reasons. That script has to be in hand within no time. This is possible only when these sheets of papers are kept orderly.

Here below a broad classification is given to identify scripts for different types of programs;

NEWS Script

Undoubtedly, one of the top priorities goes in writing scripts for news which is generally considered as one most formal broadcast by any station. Highly professional writers, having a fairly long experience in language and news copy writing are employed to write copies for the prime-time newsreels. What must be cared in these scripts is;

- Proper language (understood by most listeners)
- Simple words (at times difficult to find)
- Small sentences
- No jarring / jumbling
- Paragraphing
- Slugs
- Ethics
- Legal
- Proper terminology in IR...proper references

Interviews

Like news, you can't afford a mistake of names, background, reference and the subject matter while interviewing a person. The only safety is you first write down a script carrying questions and all the references about the interviewee. In panel interviews sometimes supplementary questions have to be scripted as other are putting questions in real time. Normal practice is to employ people who should conduct research work on a topic or the personality before questions are constructed. Some station engage top ranking researchers for this purpose. All this exercise aims at making interviews one of the most attractive piece of broadcast. If you

have to hold an interview of a celebrity from the showbiz, it is pertinent to know a great deal about the achievements of the star and then set questions. It is a poor show on part of a broadcasting house, or the interviewer, to ask a celebrity to narrate his/her achievements

Talk Shows / Discussions

The opening remarks about the topic and the necessity to run a program, introduction of the participants and the questions are all lying on the table as a script to begin a program. At times some lines are so hard and fast, that the anchorperson has to rehearse them well before the time. But much of the talk shows is the same as in the programs like interviews. The anchorperson of talk shows must be equipped with information related to the person or the topic. For example if the discussion is to take place on globalization of economy, the compere must be familiar with the concepts of free market economy, the various rounds of the World trade Organization to up date various provisions for the global trade, and at the top of it, country's position on certain developments in the world trade, reaction of the business community and the possible amendments which may remove obstacles in a smooth international trade. From here on the discussion must start to find new ideas on various aspects of the topic under discussion. If this is not done this way, then the program would be repeating things which are already in the knowledge of listeners.

Documentaries & Radio Features

For all documentaries and radio features, a script must be ready before other formalities are fulfilled. In documentaries the script may carry historical data as well. One thing which must be taken care of is the choice of words which should be simple and understood by common people without much botheration.

Live Shows

Though it seems, the talent is saying something off the cuff, it is not so. All one is saying at the mike in front of a huge gatherings like the live-shows, or awards giving ceremonies, is not only strictly scripted but properly rehearsed for one can't afford to slip and cause embarrassment to the producer and the station when VIPS and other bigwigs are around.

Disc Jockeys

All Programs – children, women, forces, farmers, light-talk, film songs-based, announcements, messages etc. are not without scripts. Since these programs carry a fair amount of talking; pieces of advice, jokes, what to do and what not and ordinary statements/announcements therefore the talents need a copy of script. Even a shift announcer is given a script to make announcements for the programs and news bulletins to follow. The same script is also held by the producers to make sure that a program goes according to the script.

Dramas

Needless is to say that a drama needs a script; it has to be. In fact there is no concept of a radio play without a script. Not only a formal script is required to produce a drama, the drama

script is so frequently punctuated with marks like cues and cautions; pauses, loud speech, whisper, snobbish and the background musical effects.

These are the scripts, which are not only rehearsed for hours but sometimes for days; to the satisfaction of the director before recordings begin. The following points should be kept in mind while dealing with a script for dramas:

One-liner

Few

Charac

ters

Brief

lines

All sound effects mentioned (radio script)

Story sequence well defined and easy to

understand Turning points fully emphasized