

# Quick Guide to Scripting Sports Reports

## 1. Prepare for Scripting Sports Reports

When scripting sports reports there are certain factors involved in making sure the most relevant and relatable information is being communicated to your audience.

For broadcast you may have thirty seconds in which to communicate each sports message, so it is important to keep it brief whilst sticking to the facts.

If a radio sports report totals 90 seconds, then that gives you approximately three stories and the option to include a short grab for one or all stories.

To prepare you need to source game results and audio grabs. Voice your script and edit all elements together using recording and editing software.

## 2. How to Script Sports Reports

**Headline** – How you start your sports report is crucial! An attention-grabbing headline will keep your audience engaged. The most important play of your subject should form your headline.

Below is an example for broadcast for a game between rugby league's South Sydney Rabbitohs and North Queensland Cowboys.

*"In the NRL, a stunning Junior Tatola try just four minutes from full time has given South Sydney a crucial 30-18 win over the Cowboys at 1300 Smiles Stadium on Saturday night."*

**Body** – A short paragraph linking the headline should form the body of your story. It is a chance to go into some more detail. As exemplified below.

*"Tatola who showed great hands for a big man to scoop the ball up and score under the posts, received a miracle offload from Cameron Murray in their five tries to three victory in front of a vocal sixteen-thousand strong crowd in Townsville."*

<PLAY SHORT AUDIO GRAB OF PLAY>

If scripting a sports report for print, whether it be for a player story or live match report, you should follow the below outline.

1. Stories should be between 300-500 words
2. Form a headline and the body of your story
3. Aim for six to eight paragraphs
4. Include coach/player quotes
5. Look for the best angle to base your story on

## 3. Important tips for Scripting Sports Reports

- Word economy is a big one! Refine your story. Go through your draft script and see where you can edit unnecessary words.
- Be clear and precise and use real words that you would use in everyday conversation.
- Avoid getting caught up in sporting clichés.

#### 4. Links to find out more:

- [CMTO Pathways Script Writing - Resource Booklet](#)
- Above match report link and other examples of stories and match reports from the same author.
  - <https://www.nrl.com/news/2019/07/20/under-strength-rabbitohs-finish-with-a-bang-to-beat-cowboys/>
  - <https://www.nrl.com/news/author/jason-wolfgram/>