

Making News Decisions

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You are the director of a half-hour news program. With commercials, weather, and sports segments, you have only 16 minutes to report the news. The newscast must be divided into two equal segments, with each story running one to two minutes. You need to save a few important items for the second segment so that people will return after the commercials. Select which of the following stories you will report on and how much time each story will get (one or two minutes). Note reasons for each selection or rejection.

1. Nurses and medical assistants walked off their jobs in a Winnipeg nursing home after talks broke down late last night.
2. A fire destroyed a small furniture manufacturing plant in Winnipeg early Saturday morning. The company had 100 employees. Arson is suspected.
3. Manitoba's unemployment rate is now 5.1%, compared with the national average of 8%, according to Statistics Canada figures just released in August 2003.
4. The Premier of Manitoba announced three new appointments to the provincial Cabinet, including a reorganization of government departments.
5. General Motors Canada reached a contract agreement with Canadian Auto Workers, and union members voted to accept the terms.
6. A constitutional challenge on the basis of freedom of expression has been launched in the courts against the regulation of pornography on Internet sites in Canada.
7. The World Health Organization announced that TB cases are increasing 10% per year in Africa because of HIV.
8. The Toronto Board of Health announced today that meat packed at the Riverwood Meat Packing Plant from December 5 to December 12, 2003, must be recalled because of health concerns.
9. A 25-year-old nanny has been arrested and charged with manslaughter in a case where a 10-month-old baby died of shaken baby syndrome.
10. A large agricultural implement manufacturing firm has announced that it will be laying off 400 workers for an indefinite period of time.
11. Elijah Wood arrived in Winnipeg for a three-month stay to film a large-production movie.
12. Monsoon flooding in Bangladesh has claimed 1300 lives over the past two weeks.
13. Two teenagers drowned in Lake Winnipeg today in a boating accident.
14. A study released by the Canadian Medical Association says that women in Canada now have heart attacks at rates comparable to men because of increased smoking, stress levels, and obesity.
15. A recent poll in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba indicates that only 60% of citizens agree with Canadian gun control and registration requirements.
16. Environment Canada announced today that it will provide \$10,000,000 to support hazardous waste disposal and the cleanup of toxic waste sites.
17. Bus fares in Winnipeg will drop by 25 cents at the beginning of next month. The City of Winnipeg made this decision because recent fare increases have caused many people to stop using public transit.

