

VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE  
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NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE

Semester:4



**Topic:** Sub-editor

**Course Title:** Reporting & Editing

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**Name of the Dept:** Journalism & Mass Communication

## SUB-EDITOR

Sub-editors belong to the news desk and work in shifts to make a news paper. Every day hundreds of news copy flow in to the news room for processing and sub editors are responsible for making them fit to print. He has to give suitable headlines and where necessary, revise and condense the material to suit the available space. This is rather a difficult task which requires skill, flair for writing and mastery over the language. According to Harold Evans all know about the reporters, but few of the public know about the copy desk, the creative section of the modern news paper. The functions of the sub-editor are news selection, editing and display. They know well what can be good news for the readers. This news sense helps them in selecting news and rejecting other news copies.

Most important part of subbing is editing which involves checking, correcting, clarifying, condensing, constructing and compiling. A sub-editor is more than a reporter who has been given an inside job and more or regular working hours. He is in every sense a specialist. He is not a man, who re-writes copy merely to justify his existence. He must have knowledge of type and type size. He must have had a sufficient experience of reporting. It is the duty of the sub-editor to ensure that everything checkable has been checked in names, places, titles, dates and anything else that could be possibly wrong. Correcting does a lot of cosmetic changes in the copy. Sometimes syntaxes are also change for making the copy readable.

While editing the copy the sub-editors mark the copy with setting instructions. At present sub-editors are not required to mark the copy with instructions. They simply do the job on PC or laptop using software. But actually editing is not just that, it is more. It is a creative job centering round judgment and projection of news. The skill of editing also involves condensing and compiling. Condensation helps the copy appear in precise

format. Copy desk is like a operation theatre where sub-editors like a surgeons work to restore life in the copy. It is often found

that a news story gets well going after restructuring. Another important job of sub-editors is headline writing. It is an important creative function. If it is well done, the page will cast a magic spell. For composing fitting headline a sub has to take in to account the most important points of the copy and on the basis of them writes headline starting the climax points. It is also a integral part of page planning. Sub-editors are actively involved in producing the news paper and their role in page make-up is considered very important from the point's arrangements of news on a page. The sub-editors have an idea about the space to be given to a story.

The quality of news package is greatly depending on the standard of the editing. Good news package is mostly determined with the quality of reporting. If the reporting is good the newspaper will be attractive to the readers. But when the readers get the package, it is not the handy work of reporters, the contribution of sub-editors is also involved in this package. Sub-editors do a lot for improving the copy of the reporters. While editing sub-editors keep the readers in mind. The ultimate thing a component newspaper sub-editor accomplishes is to make the news more meaningful for its readers.