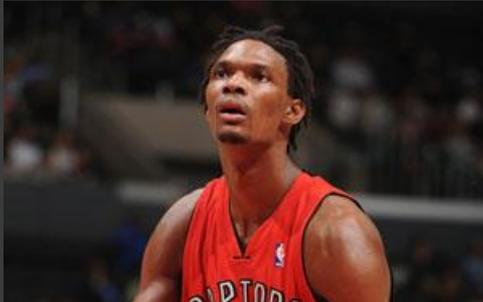


PROFILE

FEATURE ARTICLES

What do all of these people have in common?



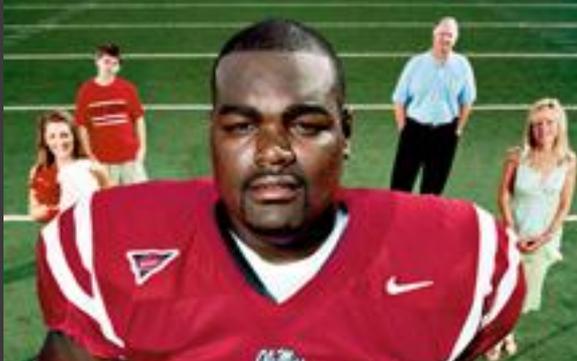
Chris Bosh donated 1 million dollars to fund his own charity that promotes social enrichment, engagement and fitness among youth!



Sheryl Crow battled breast cancer and now continues to write music, be involved in activism, and spend time with her new son.



Cruz Caldera rescued two women from being hit by a speeding train.



Michael Oher went from being homeless to playing in the NFL.



Chris Gardner went from being homeless and in jail to working on Wall Street.



Susan York singlehandedly documented enough information to shut down a meth lab on her street.

Features of a Profile Feature Article

Writing a **profile feature article**

1. **Decide on an approach.**

- Outlining your story is the best way to start. This means reviewing your notes, marking the most interesting or articulate quotes, making a list of important points, and creating a structure into which you can fit your information.
- Spend extra time on the beginning of your story. Readers will decide whether to proceed based on the capacity of your lead to grab their interest.

Point to ponder:

How much time do you spend perusing an internet article before you move on to another?

- ◎ A "profile feature" is a newspaper article that explores the background and character of a particular person (or group).
- ◎ The focus should be on a news angle or a single aspect of the subject's personal or professional life.
- ◎ The article should begin with the reason the subject is newsworthy at this time, and should be based (not exclusively) on an extensive interview with the subject.

Writing a **profile feature article**

2. Focus on what's most compelling.

⦿ Before you start writing, think through all **the** information you have and all the points you plan to make.

- What's surprising?
- What's important?
- What's useful?

Point to ponder:

What will be the angle of your story? What new information do you have about the profiled person that will make your article interesting to read?

Writing a **profile feature article**

3. Show, don't tell.

- ◎ It is tempting to describe a room as messy or a person as nice, but carefully observed details and well-chosen verbs make a much stronger impression than adjectives.

Writing a **profile feature article**

4. Put your story in context.

- ◎ You must help answer a reader's biggest question about any story: Why should I care?

Writing a **profile feature article**

5. Fill holes.

- ⦿ Are there questions raised by your story that you have not answered?
- ⦿ Ask a friend, teacher, editor or fellow reporter to read through your story and tell you what else he or she would want to know.

Writing a **profile feature article**

6. Triple-check for accuracy.

- ⦿ Spell names right.
- ⦿ Get titles right.
- ⦿ Get facts right.
- ⦿ If you are unsure of something and cannot verify it, leave it out.
- ⦿ Before you turn in your story, ask yourself these questions:
 - Have I attributed or documented all my facts?
 - Are the quotes in my story presented fairly and in context?
 - Am I prepared to publicly defend my facts if they are questioned?

Writing a **profile feature article**

8. Proofread.

- ⦿ Do not turn in a story with spelling or grammatical mistakes.

Ending Ideas...

- ⦿ Don't end your article with a conclusion.
- ⦿ Consider saving a particularly resonant quote for the last sentence. This way your article will end with a voice the reader may be left hearing long after he or she has finished your story.