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# Chapter 11

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## FEATURE STORIES

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# Characteristics of a Feature Story

- Timeless – they are acceptable for publication at almost any time
  - Creative style – provide latitude to use more creative style vs. hard news stories which stick strictly to facts
  - More human – provides a better glimpse into emotion or people interest
  - Unlimited – the subjects and the approach is almost unlimited and first person is a plus
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# Personality Profiles

- Who is this person?
  - Show us the inner thoughts and emotions
  - Use 1 aspect of their life to show your audience their strength, courage, fear, pain, joy, etc.
  - You have to ask questions that are probing
  - Interviews need to be well planned in advance
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# Preparing for the interview

- Research your subject ahead of time
  - This tells you what questions to ask if you already know a little bit about their life in relation to the subject you're covering
  - A good story is one where you don't have to explain your question to the audience == the appropriateness of your question shows in the response of your interviewee.
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## 9/11 – Jules & Gedeon Naudet and James Hanlon's video on FDNY

- What research had the filmmakers done ahead of time on Tony?
  - How did they get to know Tony and the FDNY better?
  - What sorts of questions do you expect they asked the firemen to get inside their heads and hearts? (give some examples of possible questions)
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# News peg

- The news peg is the portion of the story that makes it news-worthy. Initially this was a documentary about a firefighter – a personal profile of sorts, one you might run in the newspaper feature section. But it became a news based story and continues to be one even today. Why?
  - How do they take to convey the emotion of the entire USA on Sept 11, 2001?
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