***BEAT REPORTING***

A beat is a particular topic or subject area that a reporter covers. Most journalists working in [print](https://www.thoughtco.com/here-is-a-brief-history-of-print-journalism-in-america-2073730) and online news cover beats. A [reporter](https://www.thoughtco.com/avoid-common-beginner-reporting-mistakes-2073835) can cover a particular beat for a period of many years.

Journalism and the art of delivering of the news come in many forms. Some approaches to news gathering and reporting are known to be more popular if compared with the rest. Some reporting techniques are also considered specialized and best done by certain journalists who are trained in this specialization. Take the case of beat reporting- this is one form of reporting that is highly specialized and will normally focus on a very specific aspect of an issue, industry or even sector. It is a normal practice that beat reporters should not be new in the field. These are the reporters that are allowed to grow in their jobs. The beat reporters will be assigned a niche, industry or focus and they are expected to familiarize themselves with the available topics and issues that may arise. They are expected not just to deliver the news but they are also expected to come up with informed observations and commentaries on the latest news and issues for a given time. The delivery of facts is just the start; it’s now common to see beat reporting that involve some insights and commentaries. The ability to come up with insights and commentaries help the beat reporters define themselves from the typical journalists in the field and in the offices.

**How the Beat Reporting Developed**

Beat reporting is actually influenced by the term ‘beat’. This is based on the ‘beat’ noun that will refer to the usual road or path taken by a person on a regular basis. For example, this will refer to the same path or road that is taken by the police officer. Using the same concept, the journalism industry has also adopted the word. This time, the term ‘beat’ will refer to the topic or niche that is assigned to the reporter on a regular basis.

**Types of Reporting Beats**

Some of the most basic beats include, in the news section, [cops](https://www.thoughtco.com/covering-the-cops-2073873), [courts](https://www.thoughtco.com/reporting-on-the-courts-2073859), [town government and school board](https://www.thoughtco.com/covering-meetings-as-news-stories-2073861). The arts and entertainment section can also be divided up into beats including coverage of movies, [TV](https://www.thoughtco.com/a-qanda-interview-with-troy-patterson-2073802), the performing arts and so on. Sports reporters are, not surprisingly, assigned to specific beats like football, basketball, baseball and so on. News organizations large enough to have foreign bureaus, such as [The Associated Press](https://www.thoughtco.com/working-at-the-associated-press-2073633), will have reporters stationed in major world capitals such as London, Moscow, and Beijing.

But on larger papers with more staffers, beats can get even more specific. For instance, the business news section might be divided into separate beats for specific industries such as manufacturing, high-tech and so on. News outlets that can afford to produce their own science sections may have beat reporters who cover such fields as astronomy and biotechnology.

**Popular News Beats**

Following are some popular beats. A reporter is assigned a beat to report in the respective field to gain maximum information.

* [Agriculture](https://assignmenteditor.com/agriculture/)
* [Arts and entertainment](https://assignmenteditor.com/arts-entertainment/)
* [Business](https://assignmenteditor.com/business/)
* [City and suburb](https://assignmenteditor.com/city-and-suburb/)
* Technology
* [Crime, courts, law](https://assignmenteditor.com/crime-courts-law/)
* [Disasters](https://assignmenteditor.com/disasters/)
* [Economics](https://assignmenteditor.com/economics/)
* [Education](https://assignmenteditor.com/education/)
* [Environment](https://assignmenteditor.com/environment/)
* [Family](https://assignmenteditor.com/family/)
* [Food](https://assignmenteditor.com/food/)
* [Health](https://assignmenteditor.com/health/)
* [History](https://assignmenteditor.com/history/)
* [International](https://assignmenteditor.com/international/)
* [Military](https://assignmenteditor.com/military/)
* [Politics and policy](https://assignmenteditor.com/politics-and-policy/)
* [Race](https://assignmenteditor.com/race/)
* [Religion](https://assignmenteditor.com/religion/)
* [Science](https://assignmenteditor.com/science/)
* [Sports](https://assignmenteditor.com/sports/)
* [Terrorism](https://assignmenteditor.com/terrorism/)
* [Transportation](https://assignmenteditor.com/transportation/)
* [Weather](https://assignmenteditor.com/weather-2/)
* [Work](https://assignmenteditor.com/work/)