

Exercise 1: Answers

- 1) You need pictures of Joanna Harris at home and pictures of her pointing out her mosquito bites, both close-up shots and wider shots. You need pictures of her children playing. You need Peter Brown walking through the wetlands and taking water samples. You would also need close-ups of the containers and the mosquitos inside. Plus you would also film a variety of shots of the wetlands.
- 2) You would interview Joanna Harris, one of her children and the medical officer of health.
- 3) Draft Script:

INTRO:

RESIDENTS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TAURANGA SAY THEY'RE BEING DRIVEN CRAZY BY MOSQUITOS. PEOPLE LIVING CLOSE TO WETLANDS SAY MOSQUITOS FLOURISH EVERY SUMMER BUT THIS YEAR THEY'RE WORSE THAN EVER. MARY JACKSON REPORTS:

Joanna Harris pulling up sleeves, talking as she points out bites on her arm.

IV Joanna Harris, resident: "These are just awful. Look at them."

VO: JOANNA HARRIS KNOWS ALL ABOUT MOSQUITO BITES. SHE'S GOT DOZENS OF THEM.

IV Joanna Harris: "Last time I counted there were 87. That was lunchtime. There's more since then, probably up around a hundred now."

Children playing ball outside. Fx of them laughing for a couple of seconds.

VO: HER CHILDREN ARE NO BETTER OFF. THEY'VE BEEN SCRATCHING ALL SUMMER AS WELL.

IV 4-year-old Jack Harris, son: "They are really awful - on my legs and on my arms."

PTC: Kneeling down by wetland. Part way through PTC cut to close-up of mosquitos in water.

PTC: THE MOSQUITOS ARE COMING FROM NEARBY WETLANDS. THEY BREED IN THE WATER HERE AND BECAUSE THE WEATHER OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAS BEEN WARMER AND WETTER THAN USUAL THE CONDITIONS ARE PERFECT. AS A RESULT, THE MOSQUITOS HAVE FLOURISHED.

CU of Joanna scratching more bites, showing how red and infected they are.

VO: JOANNA HARRIS SAYS THEY SEEM TO BE HUNGRY ALL DAY LONG. NOT ONLY THAT, THE BITES ARE ITCHIER AND GET INFECTED EASIER.

IV Joanna Harris: “Mine have been so bad I’ve had to get antibiotics. I’ve even had to take time off work because they look so ghastly and I can’t concentrate.”

Peter Brown walking down pathway in wetlands

VO: HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS.

IV Peter Brown, Medical Officer of Health: “This is a bit of mystery. We know why there are so many mosquitos, but we don’t know why the bites are more prone to infections. We don’t know why people are finding them so unpleasant.”

Peter Brown collecting water samples, holding up jar. CU mosquitos inside

VO: THEY’RE DOING TESTS. BUT THE SAMPLES HAVE TO BE SENT TO WELLINGTON. RESULTS COULD BE TWO WEEKS AWAY.

IV Joanna Harris: “I guess we just have to put up with it – keep on using insect repellent, keep on shutting the windows when we can. But I’ll be pleased to see the last of them.”

CU of swampy area, pulling out to a WS to end.

VO: RESIDENTS MAY HAVE TO WAIT A WHILE. SUMMER’S NEARLY OVER, BUT THE WEATHER ISN’T LIKELY TO COOL DOWN FOR ANOTHER MONTH. MARY JACKSON FOR BAY NEWS.

Notes

The mosquito story has a very basic structure, which works for most television stories. It starts by showing viewers what the problem is, then there’s some background and general information, and it ends up looking to the future and a possible solution. The longest grab is 12” long; the PTC is about 14”. The facts are sprinkled throughout the story. Each line of VO is linked to what comes before it and after it. The total number of words—counting the script, PTC and interview grabs—is about 270 (about 1.30”).

Exercise 2: Answers

1. When did the fire start? How many businesses have been evacuated? What is the restaurant's name? What kind of restaurant is it, how popular and how many people were inside at the time? Was anyone injured? Are any of the other buildings around the restaurant at risk? Are there any theories about how the fire started? How long will firefighters stay at the scene?

2. You should interview:

- The fire commander at the scene (the commander is usually the one with the white band round their helmet)
- Witnesses who saw the flames
- People who were inside the restaurant at the time and were evacuated
- The owner of the restaurant where the fire broke out
- Other shop-owners or restaurant owners who have been evacuated.

3. The audience will have seen the extent of the fire and the fire engines in the pictures, plus will have seen witness interviews, so you need more information for your live cross.

Find out what are the possible causes of the fire, how damaged the restaurant is likely to be, how long shops around it will be closed for, and therefore the effect on business. You need to answer the "What now?" and/or "What next?" questions.

Exercise 3: Answers

1. With a sports news story you must make sure you get specific shots of players you will talk about in your script, CUs and several shots of them doing different things on the field.

That means you need pictures of Dan Cartwright training (or, if he is not training, watching), Tom Taylor, the Crusaders coach, the team doctor and general shots of players training.

2. You will need an interview with the coach, the team doctor and Tom Taylor.

3. Draft script

Shots of Tom Taylor training/watching

VO: WHEN TOM TAYLOR STEPPED UP TO TAKE THE KICKS AT CRUSADERS TRAINING, IT WAS OBVIOUS WHO WOULD BE TAKING OVER AT FIRST-FIVE THIS WEEK.

fx rugby training/shots of Dan Cartwright

VO: THE RUMOURS WERE CORRECT - DAN CARTWRIGHT WASN'T FIT TO PLAY IN THE FINAL.

IV grab Todd Bladder, Coach: confirming that Dan won't be playing

Shots of Dan Cartwright

VO: DETAILS IN HERE AS TO WHAT IS WRONG WITH DAN CARTWRIGHT.

IV grab of team doctor

Sfx training (shots of Tom Taylor again).

VO: TOM TAYLOR SAYS HE FEELS FOR HIS TEAMMATE BUT IS KEEN TO PROVE HIMSELF.

IV grab Tom Taylor

(PTC at Crusaders training with team in back ground)

PTC: TOM TAYLOR IS HOPING HE CAN PULL OFF THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS CAREER. HE KNOWS HAS VERY BIG BOOTS TO FILL. JOHN SMITH, CHANNEL 4 NEWS.