**RADIO – NEWS COMMENTARY**

Commentaries

-are short, conversational first-person essays

-often share experiences that are personally meaningful, perhaps surprising, and relating to larger social themes

-might take a position or express an opinion on a specific issue

-don't have to be "objective," but they should take into account opposing points of view

-aren't necessarily political or personal rants, and don’t always stick to general observations

-allow people to get a perspective grounded in compelling evidence, which might come in the form of lived experiences, references to research, or bits of dialogue with people they've encountered in their everyday worlds.

***SEVEN GUIDELINES FOR RADIO COMMENTARIES***

1. Commentaries should be 60-90 seconds long (roughly 150 - 300 words).
2. Write about issues that inspire passion in you. Write from your own experience.
3. Use concrete examples/specifics and stories in your writing.
4. Write conversationally. Write like you speak. Read your scripts aloud as you write. Don't just mouth the words. Say it out loud.
5. Don't be afraid to use humor. Funny lines and topics capture people's attention.
6. Think about the rhythm and pacing of the piece. Vary sentence length.
7. Read your commentary out loud to someone else and see if it flows and sounds natural. Underline words you want to emphasize to be sure a listener doesn't miss anything. Put slash marks in your copy where you need to take breaths.