



Represent

Plan your story.

How many people are there?
Who organized it?
What's the goal?
What happened at the event?
What's the background?

being the media

how to start reporting



At the scene

Plan your time. Get there early. Dress for the weather. Bring some water and snacks!

Bring your stuff. Charge your phone and camera. Bring batteries and extra tape. Got pens and paper?

Got back-up? Split the work: someone films, someone interviews. Someone covers the start of the event, someone finishes. Someone is on the street, someone is in a cafe tweeting and updating.

Stay til the bitter end. Nothing is as sad as going home and realizing that the riot started just after you and your camera left.

Give your readers something to do.

Can readers help? Donate money and clothes? Read more? Go to a protest?

OPEN PUBLISHING

Why we do what we do. Some resources are linked here:
<http://nyc.indymedia.org/en/static/openpublishing.html>

WRITING, PRIVILEGE AND ALLYSHIP

Checking your privilege. Not speaking for others. Resources at the bottom of this page:
<http://tc.indymedia.org/page/anti-oppression>

Talking to folks

Interviews add - a phrase, a viewpoint. Not just talking points. Mainstream media does talking points and it's boring.

- *Before the event, think of types of people you'd like to interview - a housing activist, a kid, a union organizer
- *Use these ideas to write some questions
- *Get a different angle—if Bash Back! is at a labor demonstration, ask them to talk about why, for example
- *Look for interesting, talkative folks at the event and ask to interview them
- *Most people like to be heard—go right ahead and ask them if they want to talk.

Pictures and video!

Photos and/or video can add immeasurably to a story and multiply your number of readers... but only if they make a unique contribution.

- *Find a new angle: an aerial shot (holding the camera above your head or from a tall building), laying on the ground, or through bike spokes or plants
- *Make the film tell a story—imagine what it will look like as you are shooting
- *Details like street signs or police badge numbers can be very important
- *Capture big themes (e.g. crowd size) as well as small details (e.g. the look on someone's face)
- *Take 10 photos for every 1 you will use

Using tc.indymedia.org

- *Creating a log-in lets you edit your story! Go here: <http://twincities.indymedia.org/user/register>
 - *Remember to tag your story! This helps with search engines and navigation. At the bottom of the posting box, there is a blank for tags. What's a tag? Terms associated with your story. For example, "Dakota, Fort Snelling, anti-colonialism, racism, indigenous"
 - *You can embed video by uploading it to a video-hosting site like YouTube or Blip.tv. Go here: <http://twincities.indymedia.org/node/add/video-embed>
- Want more training? Get in touch with us and we'll help you out!**



Check your privilege! If you're white, do you end up interviewing only white people? When you want a "person in the street" comment, do you assume that person has to be white and mainstream, while interviewing people of color/queer folks/working class folks only about POC/queer/working class issues? Push your boundaries—seek out people who aren't just like you.

And keep checking. Do you credit all event organizers? If it's a militant event, do you "forget" that women, queer folks and POC can organize and lead militant events?

Intersectionality: It's the system. Remember that oppressions inter-related; for example, if you're talking about police brutality, remember both police racism and police homophobia.

Consent, names and ID-ing people! If you're at an event with security concerns, get people's permission before taking pictures. Remember that undocumented immigrants may be present; remember that not all folks at queer and trans events are safe being out. When you ask people if you can interview them, let them know that they can use an alias or be anonymous.