Elements of Good Political Reporting

1. It frames the story in ways that help people relate to the news and participate in democracy.

2. It explains the background and context.

3. It shows "Why the audience should care."

4. It highlights the effect of politics and political action on people.

5. The lede cuts to the chase.

6. It includes BASIC info – it doesn't assume everyone understands the jargon.

7. It uses all the good reporting techniques: Thoroughness. Details. Accuracy. Strong sources.

8. It uses many different storytelling techniques: Hard-news style. Anecdotes. Human examples. Good quotes/soundbites.

9. It helps people make informed decisions.

10. It illuminates the democratic and political process.

Some examples:

1. Eli Saslow: **http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/08/AR2008100803890.html**

2. Health Care plans: **http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/28/AR2008102803501.html?hpid=topnews**

3. Fact-Check: **http://democracywise.syr.edu/stories.cfm?storyid=286**

4. Party Power: **http://democracywise.syr.edu/stories.cfm?storyid=273**

5. People and $ power: **http://democracywise.syr.edu/stories_archives2.cfm?storyid=68**