

Graduate Journalism Application News Story

(1)

You receive an anonymous note that School Board President Mildred Jefferson's husband is president of a company that will be working with a construction company the board has awarded a \$5 million contract.

Jefferson, who uses her maiden name, encouraged school board members during a picnic to award the contract to Jones Construction Co. What she didn't announce was that her husband, Marvin Radcliffe, is president of Radcliffe Ltd., a subcontractor. The two companies have been doing business for the last five years. The board unanimously awarded the contract to Jones. Your tipster says Radcliffe and Jones will definitely work together on the school repair improvement project.

Make a list of people—by title or position—you will interview. (Some of your sources are not mentioned here.) Who will you interview first?

(2)

Put together a well-written story based on the following information. You are on deadline and have no quotes to put in the story. After you read the information, take no more than 30 minutes to write the story.

Mary Ann August and Joan Davidson are sisters who were killed by a drunken driver yesterday evening (Christmas Eve). The two sisters were inseparable. They have been living together for the past 20 years: Davidson is divorced; August a widow. The two were returning from a family party.

August, 67 was driving their gold Toyota Tercel when Ted Jackson, a laundry truck driver, hit the sister's car almost head-on. Police said that Jackson crossed the center line and rammed into the Tercel. Jackson, 31, had spent the day drinking beer with a buddy at his home. The two men were on their way to a liquor store to buy more beer. Jackson was driving his own car, an Isuzu I-Mark.

Police said Jackson's blood alcohol level was .23. Under state law, a person is considered drunk when their blood alcohol level is .10. Police said they found several empty beer cans in Jackson's I-Mark. August was doing the 45 mph speed limit, police said. Police arrested and charged Jackson with drunken driving and vehicular homicide. He is being held at the county jail.

The two sisters were airlifted by helicopter to Mercy Hospital. August died first at 12:40 A.M. Christmas Day of head injuries; her sister died five hours later, also from head injuries. She was 72. Jackson and his friends were not injured.

The sisters not only lived together, but also worked together. They both did clerical work at Harrison Pharmaceuticals. August has two grown children: Ashley and Harrison, both of New York City. Davidson has one grown son, Henry, of Ypsilanti, Michigan.