
Book review:

**Rich, C. (2002). *Writing and reporting news: A coaching method* (4th Ed.).
Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.**

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TWO things stick out in Rich's text which bother me. First is her use, as you'd expect, of American journalism jargon such as "nut graph": she is based at Hofstra University on Long Island, east of New York City. But when there are so many good reporting and editing texts also available which have been written specifically for journalists entering the Australian industry, I'm easily persuaded to give Rich the heave-ho. Let's not forget that the prospects of Australian graduates joining the US industry right now are slimmer than ever. Americanisms are rife elsewhere: I can think of one crusty editor who would fume at the caption on Page 327, in which students "protest" something, instead of "protesting against" it.

Second is her inclusion, inside the back cover, of a summarised list of the proofing and

editing symbols all of us in print journalism used before pagination really took hold in the mid-1990s. I can hear all the old hands out there clapping with delight at this recognition of "journalism as it should be" but really ... where do reporters do anything but tap out their yarns on electronic keyboards and screens? And where do subs use copy paper, pins and pens now? Possibly at managerial level in between editions, or in the public service, but not at the pointy end.

Other than that, Rich's exposition of professional story-telling is useful, and popular among some academics here with overseas backgrounds. I'd recommend it as "background reading".
