



**Arab American
National Museum**

Journalist For A Day Activity

Making An Impact

Journalism has long been a part of the Arab American community. The first Arabic language newspaper, Kawkab America, was established in the late 1800s. One of the most famous reporters, who happens to be Arab American, was journalist Helen Thomas. She worked as the White House correspondent for United Press International, covering every president from John F. Kennedy to Barack Obama. She earned the title “First Lady of the Press” for her role as dean of the White House Press Corps and her work as a White House bureau chief.

One of the things Helen Thomas donated to the collections of the Arab American National Museum is her typewriter, that she used for years in her career. This portable typewriter (think of it as the first really big laptop) helped lead Helen to a very successful career. It allowed her to report on important news stories and educate the public on political issues. The typewriter was an essential tool for her to do her job and report news to the public.

Directions: Think about these questions:

- 1.) Why would it be important to have Arabic language newspapers?

- 2.) What do you think these Arabic language newspapers reported on?

- 3.) What is journalism?

- 4.) Why is journalism important?

Now, it's your turn to put your journalism hat on!

Directions: Be a journalist for a day! Watch an event in person or on television and answer the following questions:

- 1.) Answer the five W's
 - a.) Who is the subject of the story/event?
 - b.) What happened?
 - c.) When did it happen?
 - d.) Where did it happen?
 - e.) Why/How did it happen?

- 2.) Are there any quotes you want to include in your story?

- 3.) How will you hook your audience? Write an opening sentence that will grab your reader's attention.

Some helpful tips for writing:

- Write down the major parts of the event that you want to write about
- Proofread your work
- Check for spelling

For Educators/Classrooms

Have students do the above assignment. Once students complete their article and submit it, have students read/report their journalism article.