

## How to Cover Sanctions

Look at [Congressional Research Service](#) reports for information and for string! CRS reports can point to U.S. strategy on future action– look for keywords you don't understand, Google them:

Treasury imposes sanctions through Office of Foreign Assets Control; Specially Designated Nationals List; the [OFAC Sanctions List Search](#)

Find out who authored the report, Google them! Google the people who do what they do!

**!!! Understand the importance of Federal Agencies, no matter what department it will have a leader and former leaders! This goes for every topic under the sun !!!**

**Learn about the agency – Here, it's OFAC within the Treasury Department**

**Find out about everyone in that department! The under secretary, their helpers, start with their press folks, ask for interviews with everyone, listen to every interview conducted publicly**

Look for news in rulemaking- Check [OMB](#) and the [Federal Register](#) for changes in rules, and additions to the sanctions list! Subscribe to get updates from the Federal Register, if you're want for sources who can give you scoops, at least get the latest docs the gov't is mandated to post

Look at the latest rulemakings to find out what issues will become important to develop stories

Always ask – “What am I missing?”

### **Think of the various angles - Speak to experts from all of them**

**The Economic Angle-** Who has written a book about the subject recently? What economists have written about this issue? Visit [NBER](#), look up academic papers on the topic and call those experts whose names keep popping up

**The Legal Angle-** Treasury consists of LOTS of lawyers who know the legal framework; Google experts in the field

**Political angles-** What lawmakers are voicing their opinions AND have committee powers over this topic? Message their press people

### **How to find sources**

**Don't be afraid to cold call!**- Google the topic, start with the most prominent experts, then move down the line

**Don't underestimate sources-** Just because someone is a gadfly, they could have the best source of information

**LinkedIn is your best friend!** - Find every person who ever worked in that part of the agency; former agency workers are the best, add them, send a message, if they talk ask them who else you should talk to...

**Read your competitor's work-** Then call their sources 😊

**Embrace social media-** search the topic, read competitors tweets; follow their sourcing and who is commenting on their posts

**Get to know and rely on your coworkers in other departments!!** The reporters who cover the White House, Justice Department, National Security, Business and banking desk know many, many things you don't, and this is not a story you can write alone

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