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BENEFITS OF SHARING YOUR STORY THROUGH GUARANTEED PAID PLACEMENT

Do you ever finish writing a press release and think, *This deserves to be on the cover of the Wall Street Journal*? While press releases are a powerful way to get media coverage for your story, even the most compelling brand stories can fall through the cracks. From cultural events dominating the news that week to journalists being far too busy to cover your story in a timely manner, there are a lot of factors at play that can get in the way of getting your brand's story the coverage it deserves. Fortunately for you, there's another way to generate much deserved attention for your news: [Guaranteed Paid Placement](#).

Guaranteed Paid Placement, otherwise known as native advertising or sponsored content (or "sponcon," if you're cool), is editorial content written and paid for by a third party that appears as a native article in a publication. Sponsored content appears everywhere from online-only sites like BuzzFeed and HuffPost to venerated publications such as the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

Marketers have long used paid placements to boost their brand and generate buzz, and social media strategists often leverage sponsored social posts for the same reason. But for many PR professionals, sponsored placements are uncharted territory – and potentially significant opportunities. With comms professionals under increasing pressure to demonstrate the ROI of their efforts—like their marketing and social media colleagues—sponsored content can be a viable solution to help PR and comms amplify their story in front of the right audiences.

Why Should Comms Use Native Advertising?

You might hear "paid placement" and think it's solely the purview of marketing. However, because the impressions generated through native advertising help communicators to demonstrate ROI, native advertising provides PR pros the opportunity to expand the reach of their messages.

Specific benefits of native advertising include:

1 Trust and credibility for your message—According to Digital Content Next, 81% of consumers¹ say they trust content that appears on publishers' websites. Brands can leverage the credibility of publications their customers trust by advertising their editorial content on sites their customers are already visiting. The seamless format of guaranteed placement allows brands to reach

their audiences in a format they prefer, which increases engagement with a brand's content.

2 Increased visibility of your news—Even if your story receives substantial media pickup, choosing to place your content in a native ad will always increase the number of views your story receives. On the other hand, if you are struggling to obtain coverage for your story, you are guaranteed to receive impressions with native advertising. Guaranteed placement is a simple way to increase your impressions for a modest price.

3 Multichannel messaging is more effective—According to marketing expert Dr. Jeffrey Lant,² a customer has to view a message seven times before they notice it or are convinced to buy what the message is advertising. This is why marketers choose to distribute their message across multiple channels in an attempt to capture a customer's attention. PR pros can use the same tactic to expand the reach of their message and increase its impact by sharing it across paid channels in addition to earned media.

4 Control your brand's story—While earned media coverage is typically the top goal of PR professionals, its biggest downside is the lack of control over your brand's narrative. Journalists write with their audience in mind—not yours—so they may overlook or not prioritize the key messaging you want to emphasize. When you publish your story as sponsored content, you have complete control over the messaging and aren't at the mercy of anyone else getting it right.

5 Extend the life of your content—You spend a lot of time and effort perfecting your press release before submitting it for distribution. After carefully crafting the right headline that makes a splash, diligently editing the copy to perfection and selecting the right multimedia elements to increase engagement, your press release is whisked away to newsrooms and inboxes all across the region, country or world. Because your press release content hits all the right notes, why not repurpose it for other uses? Reusing your press release content for a guaranteed placement is an excellent way to get more mileage out of your hard work while increasing your story's reach.

What Types of Content Work Best as Native Advertising?

This all sounds great, you might be thinking, but how do I know if my content is suitable for native advertising? It's a great question (whether or not you were thinking it), so let us help you decide if sponsored content is right for your message.

Your story includes multimedia. Readers are more likely to click on your content if an image or video is accompanying it. They are also more likely to remember visual content than text, so reinforcing your message with relevant and compelling content will make a greater impact.

Your message is educational and informative. Thought leadership pieces like original research reports or expert insight on industry trends are perfect candidates for sponsored content. Readers visit publisher websites to learn new information, and research has shown that sharing valuable content is one of the most effective ways to engage customers.

You have big news to share. Whether you're launching a cool, new product, merging with another company or unveiling a rebrand, big news deserves wide dissemination. Because you control the narrative of your sponsored content, readers will get all the important information you want them to know in the way you want to share it.

Of course, this is by no means an exhaustive list. In short, if you have a reason to send a press release, you have good content for a native ad. Keep reading to get started.

¹ <https://digitalcontentnext.org/blog/2021/11/29/how-automation-can-help-any-publisher-compete-in-digital-advertising/>

² <https://www.businessinsider.com/how-many-contacts-does-it-take-before-someone-buys-your-product-2011-7>

About PR Newswire

PR Newswire is the industry's leading press release distribution partner with an unparalleled global reach of more than 440,000 newsrooms, websites, direct feeds, journalists and influencers and is available in more than 170 countries and 40 languages. From our award-winning Content Services offerings, integrated media newsroom and microsite products, Investor Relations suite of services, paid placement and social sharing tools, PR Newswire has a comprehensive catalog of solutions to solve the modern-day challenges PR and communications teams face. For 70 years, PR Newswire has been the preferred destination for brands to share their most important news stories across the world.

How Can I Turn My Story into a Native Advertisement?

PR Newswire can supplement your comms strategy beyond the press release through our **Guaranteed Paid Placement offering powered by Nativio.**

Through this exclusive partnership, PR Newswire customers have the opportunity to turn their press releases into native-ready sponsored content that will appear on websites relevant to your audience.

When you choose PR Newswire's Guaranteed Paid Placement, we convert your press release into editorial content that fits seamlessly into a publisher's news feed by matching the visual design and format of the website. Readers click on your content to read the full news article directly on the publisher's website. From there, you can drive the reader back to your website through a clear call to action.

Let PR Newswire take your press release content to the next level with **Guaranteed Paid Placement.**