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## Orato: True stories from real people

Check out [Orato](#), a new site that is devoting itself to first-person journalism -- i.e. eyewitness stories of major events such as the London subway bombings and day-to-day life in the streets of Baghdad. Orato plans to publish the work of both professional journalists and citizen journalists.

The site says:

“Orato's editorial strategy is to report the world as seen through the eyes of the people who are closest to events that are shaking the world: the participants, the witnesses, the soldiers in the trenches; the survivor from the 101st floor of the World Trade Center; the hot celebrity... or the celebrity's chauffeur.

These first-person stories are identified by and produced with the assistance of a world network of professional journalists. Orato then combines syndicated, professionally-developed first-person news stories with an array of registered-users posted stories, so that it is both a rich journal of fresh, relevant highly readable news features and an edgy, participatory marketplace of the real, unmediated voices of ordinary people: the citizen journalists of the world.

Cecilia Jamasmie, the site's Assignment Editor, says people from 122 countries have already registered and sent the site story ideas.

"We'll commission and pay for feature stories in the first-person voice, but we'll make it possible for anyone, for a small fee, to publish their own stories on the site," she says. "And we'll regularly evaluate pay-to-publish stories that are highly rated by readers, moving the best into the feature window and paying their authors the same rates we pay commissioned authors. We're hoping to foster ethical practices and quality reporting in this new medium, and above all, create a forum for great storytelling."

The site includes [some sample stories](#) to demonstrate what it means by first-person news.

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