

## ***News Literacy***

JRN 101-B / JRN 103-G

### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: Blogging about Photo selection**

#### **Blog Posts must be up before recitation, week of April 6**

**What you're doing:** This week, you'll be asked to post a blog entry on a recent debate over use of an Associated Press photo of an American Marine being tended to after being wounded by a rocket-propelled grenade. [Here is](#) the photo. The Defense Secretary, Robert Gates, asked the AP not to run the photo out of deference to the family's wish for privacy, but the AP published the photo anyway, citing a need to show "the sacrifice and the brutality of war." Please read [this NYT Lens Blog post](#) and [this news story](#) about the controversy and discuss whether you agree with the AP decision, why, and if not, what you would have done differently. Also consider the possible implications of your decision. You may respond to the original stories, or to other posts from your classmates. As always, keep the debate civil, but keep it lively.

You will not be graded necessarily on your position, but on the strength and logic of your argument and your understanding of the weight and tone a photo brings to a news report. Use specific details and examples from the readings, properly citing your sources.

**Why you're doing this:** This week's lecture addressed the power of images both to document truth and to make a visceral connection between you and the story. This assignment offers a chance to consider the pros, cons, and consequences of using a vivid photograph.

**What you should aim to get out of it:** As with previous assignments, a greater understanding of the consequences of publication. And up to 3 homework points for satisfactory work, or 4 points for additional research.