











Lecturer Alerts

The Blackwater example is LOOOONG.

And, the Streikand song is audio-only, something we rarely give you, so you'll want to test run it.

 ward3.wmv	0:01:18
 ward2.wmv	0:01:06
 ward1.wmv	0:00:37
 vaccinebachman.wmv	0:01:24
 cooper200ml.wmv	0:06:00
 christmas.wmv	0:00:47
 cellonplane.wmv	0:03:26
 campdeath.wmv	0:02:46
 blackwater.wmv	0:06:26
 barbara.mp3	0:00:23

msnbc.com

Afghan investigator: US burning of Qurans was intentional



"We believe it is intentional," Maulavi Khaliqdad, a member of the panel established by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, told Deutsche Presse-Agentur on Monday. "If they burnt one or two copies, then we could have said it could have been a mistake. But they took hundreds of such books to burn. Everyone knew those were religious books."

ANIMATION: Quotes come in on click

Three weeks ago, riots erupted in Afghanistan after workers at a U.S. Air Base reported Qurans were being burnt to dispose of them.

U.S. officials said it was a mistake.

Now a panel appointed by Afghan President Hamid Karzai says there's no way it was a mistake. Which official version do you give more weight...and why?

This is our work for today: weighing the relative merits of the people on whom most news reports are built: the sources.

http://worldnews.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/03/05/10583005-afghan-investigator-us-burning-of-qurans-was-intentional

Says Who?

Critical Evaluation
of Sources interviewed
for News Reports

When it comes to judging the credibility and reliability of news reports, you the news consumer have two main concerns: Evidence and Sources. Last week we talked about the accumulation of evidence, the verification process that's essential to V.I.A. and the qualitative difference between Direct and Arm's Length evidence.

Today we think about the **people** who are quoted in a news report.

We call them SOURCES, Not to be confused with OUTLETS, which produce the news.

And we're going to ease in.

First we're going to talk about some concepts.

Then we're going to organize those concepts in an easy-to-memorize mnemonic device.

So put down your pens and think with me for a minute.

Smart Questions About Sources:

- ✓ Who, exactly, is this source?
- ✓ How would this source know?
- ✓ Does anyone else say so?
- ✓ Is it verified fact, or assertion?
- ✓ What is her/his self-interest?

(Don't copy these. Wait for the mnemonic device)

ANIMATION: EACH QUESTION COMES UP WITH A CLICK

Don't write these down...just think about what they mean, because in a few minutes we'll give you a much easier way to remember the ideas.

Let's start with a report on whether it is dangerous to use a cell phone while you are on a commercial aircraft.

As you watch, think about these questions
(CLICK TO NEXT SLIDE)

Says Who?

Cellonplane.wmv

NEWS FELLOW: LINK THE NAMED VIDEO TO THIS SLIDE

AFTER VIDEO RUNS: ASK

For each source, what did you notice?

Self interest.

Corroboration

Verification

Basis of Knowledge/Authority

Identity, not just name

(As they get going, Click next slide to assist them in articulating it)

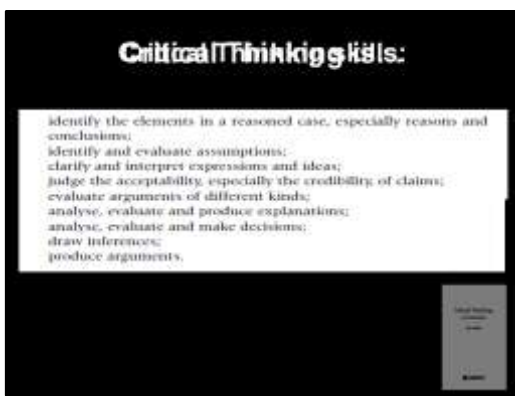
Smart Questions About Sources:

- ✓ Who, exactly, is this source?
- ✓ How would this source know?
- ✓ Does anyone else say so?
- ✓ Is it verified fact, or assertion?
- ✓ What is her/his self-interest?

(Don't copy these. Wait for the mnemonic device)

ANIMATION: EACH QUESTION COMES UP WITH A CLICK

Use this slide to prompt questions about the sources in the cellphone story.



Animation: One Click, removes Thomas Dewey quote, brings up list of critical thinking skills and citation to Alec Fisher book

One of the reasons you're in this course is because Stony Brook, and any other school worth its salt, makes a big deal about training you to think critically. The phrase gets slung around a lot, so as we plunge into this part of the course, let's remind ourselves what our goal is.

The American Educator, Scholar and Psychologist John Dewey coined the phrase, Critical Thinking.

Here's what he meant...As you can see, he defines it IN OPPOSITION to the kind of thinking in which you just passively receive ideas and information from someone else. Critical Thinking is an ACTIVE process by which you methodically test a statement or argument and go search for relevant information, think for yourself about the grounds supporting and the implications flowing from ideas and statements.

AFTER CLICK: The reason powerful people fear information is that it allows a critical thinker to do what Dewey described. (read the list)

Why Sources Matter

THREATS AND RESPONSES: INTELLIGENCE

**THREATS AND RESPONSES: INTELLIGENCE;
Defectors Bolster U.S. Case Against Iraq, Officials Say**

By JUDITH MILLER

Published: January 24, 2003

THREATS AND RESPONSES: GERM WEAPONS;

C.I.A. Hunts Iraq Tie to Soviet Smallpox

By JUDITH MILLER

CIA (intelligence informant's accusation that Iraq obtained

**BOOKS OF THE TIMES; Sounding an Urgent
Terrorism Alarm to Deaf Ears**

By JUDITH MILLER

Judith Miller reviews book *The Age of Sacred Terror* by Daniel Benjamin and Steven Miller; photos

November 23, 2002

(LECTURERS NEED TO MOVE SWIFTLY THROUGH THIS WMD MATERIAL TO LEAVE TIME FOR THE REST)

After 9/11/2001 and then in the months leading up to the invasion of Iraq by U.S. forces, the New York Times had scoop after scoop by star reporter Judith Miller, whose long work in the region gave her sources no one else had.

The picture she painted was that Saddam Hussein had nuclear weapons and was ready to use them. For all the accusations that the Times is a Democratic Party organ, it's interesting to note she was delivering the same message as the Bush White House, which may be why few questioned the reports.



On February 5, 2003, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell addressed the United Nations Security Council with evidence, he said, that Saddam Hussein had Weapons of Mass Destruction and that the invasion of Iraq would be the only way to stop Hussein from using them on the U.S. or other enemies. He is what you'd call a top-notch source and he was saying what the Times was reporting: Look Out. Iraq has WMD and will use them. By March The Times and CBS News reported their joint polling showed 55% of Americans supported an invasion of Iraq.

(Aside to lecturers, At that time, Bill Keller (now the Times' executive editor) was a columnist and wrote admiringly of Powell's performance:

"Senator John Kerry seemed to come down from the fence last week after Colin Powell's skillful parsing of the evidence.

We reluctant hawks may disagree among ourselves about the most compelling logic for war -- protecting America, relieving oppressed Iraqis or reforming the Middle East -- but we generally agree that the logic for standing pat does not hold. Much as we might wish the administration had orchestrated events so the inspectors had a year instead of three months, much as we deplore the arrogance and binary moralism, much as we worry about all the things that could go wrong, we are hard pressed to see an alternative that is not built on wishful thinking. "

What Are the Consequences When The Press Gets it Wrong?



U.S. Invades Iraq to Capture WMD

More than 100,000 Iraqis have died in the conflict that begun with the “Shock and Awe” bombings on March 19, 2003. Over the last 8 years, more than 4,400 U.S. soldiers were killed and 31,827 were wounded in action.

Why Critical Thinking About Sources Matters

Conflict in Iraq - msnbc.com

CIA's final report: No WMD found in Iraq

Recommends freeing detainees held for weapons knowledge

Discussion Related

Tweet 0

Recommend 21

Associated Press
updated 4/25/2005 9:24:44 PM ET

Share | Print | Font: A/A + -

WASHINGTON — In his final word, the CIA's top weapons inspector in Iraq said Monday that the hunt for weapons of mass destruction has "gone as far as feasible" and has found nothing, closing an investigation into the purported programs of Saddam Hussein that were used to justify the 2003 invasion.



No WMD were found.

To Be Fair...

"Saddam Hussein has spent the better part of the last decade on the development of those weapons of mass destruction again, as he has ten times since the fundamental question of whether or not we can keep the most feared weapons known to mankind out of the hands of an untrustworthy and unproven ally is the same question that has been asked by Sen. Joe Biden (D, DE), Feb. 12, 1998.
Madeleine Albright, Feb. 18, 1998.

ANIMATION: Each Click Brings Up Another Quote

To be fair, President George W Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Colin Powell were not the only ones who gave the American public information that turned out to be false.

Leaders in both parties had been getting it wrong for more than five years before we invaded Iraq.

Click to:

Clinton,
Albright,
Biden

and Berger Quotes



Animation: On click, NY magazine clip fades away and apology appears.

What, people began to ask, were we doing in Iraq?
How did the Times get it so wrong?

On May 26, 2004, the New York Times published a lengthy description of what the paper got wrong and how that happened.

It boiled down to sources, as New York Magazine pointed out.

Anonymous sources, whose personal interests, it turns out, made them poor partners in a disinterested search for the truth,

[CLICK TO BRING UP TIMES APOLOGY](#)

There were people in our government and elsewhere who had set out to hoodwink the press. But a careful news consumer armed with the ability to evaluate sources for themselves...might not have trusted the New York Times' reporting because so much of it was based on un-named sources providing unverified, uncorroborated material.

Easy to say in hindsight.

To improve your foresight we introduce today an advanced vocabulary that brings clarity and nuance to your critical analysis of the sources who are the basis for so many news reports.

Journalists are people who need people



(News Fellow: Link the Streisand song here It's just 20 seconds worth. (optional))

Most of what you'll read, watch and listen to, as a news consumer, is based on what people tell a journalist. The journalist evaluates who is talking and makes judgment calls. But you, too, should evaluate sources.

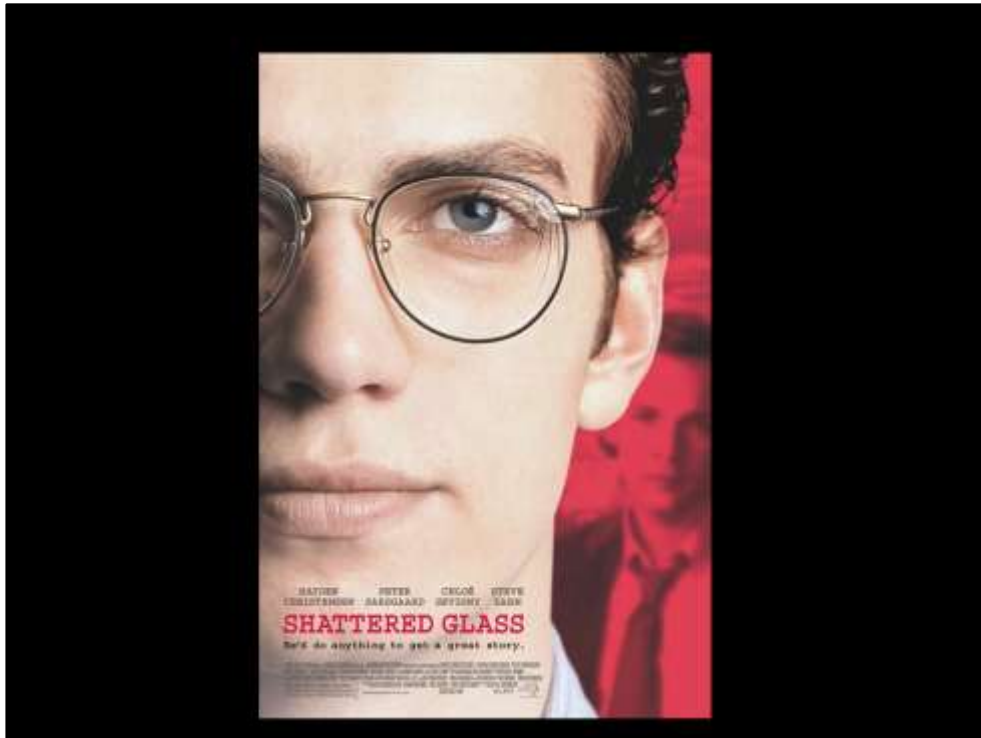
We are all people who need people, especially people whose information we can trust.

Today: Five Smart Questions About Sources:

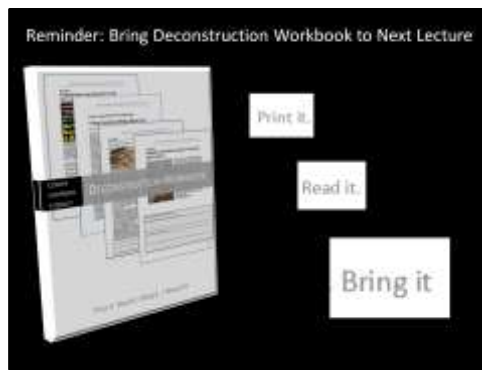
- ✓What is her/his self-interest?
- ✓Does anyone else say so?
- ✓Is it fact, or assertion?
- ✓How would this source know?
- ✓Who, exactly, is this source?

ANIMATION: “What is her/his self-interest” comes up automatically, the rest come in with successive clicks

Today, we’ll teach you an easy way to remember how to analyze each source quoted in a news report and to think for yourself...Is this a reliable source? How much weight should I give their information?



NEWSFELLOW: NEWS FELLOW: LINK (INSERT) VIDEO TO THIS SLIDE AND SELECT "START AUTOMATICALLY" run-time 5:21



Don't even bother showing up next week without this thing: The Deconstruction Workbook. It will be posted on Blackboard and you need to print it out and bring it to class next week. (Or bring the PDF on your laptop or tablet)



(ANIMATION: Each successive click brings up a new bullet point, starting with the direct evidence column.)

Last week, we talked about the spectrum from direct evidence to indirect evidence.

Now...under that umbrella, let's talk about the sources...the humans...who supply evidence.

We'll use a story you're familiar with: the campus car wreck that was one of the stories you used in the exercise last month in which you assembled a newspaper front page.

ASK: Some people can provide direct evidence, but does that automatically mean they are trustworthy?

(click to bring up comprehensive list)

DIRECT: Driver of car; Eyewitnesses

ASK: What might interfere with their willingness, or even their ability, to accurately or comprehensively tell what happened?

ASK: What should a news consumer look for when weighing the information provided by people with direct involvement in the events. Just because they have something at stake, should we discount them?

What might strengthen what they say?

Now let's look at people without direct experience, but with useful or interesting indirect knowledge related to this wreck.

INDIRECT: Campus police; University officials; Driver's lawyer; Friends and relatives of victims; Family of driver; Students on campus.

Which ones provide reliable information?

It's a lot to think about, so you won't be surprised to learn we've got a Mnemonic device to help you remember.



(ANIMATION: On Click the general questions fade and the Mnemonic, IMVAIN fades in.

This is the vocabulary you will use from here on to describe the sources who show up in news stories.

Independent vs. Self-interested

Multiple vs. Lone or Sole source

Verifies vs. Asserts

Authoritative/Informed vs. Uninformed

Named vs. Unnamed

In past semesters, students have memorized the 5 strongest characteristics with this mnemonic device: I'M VAIN

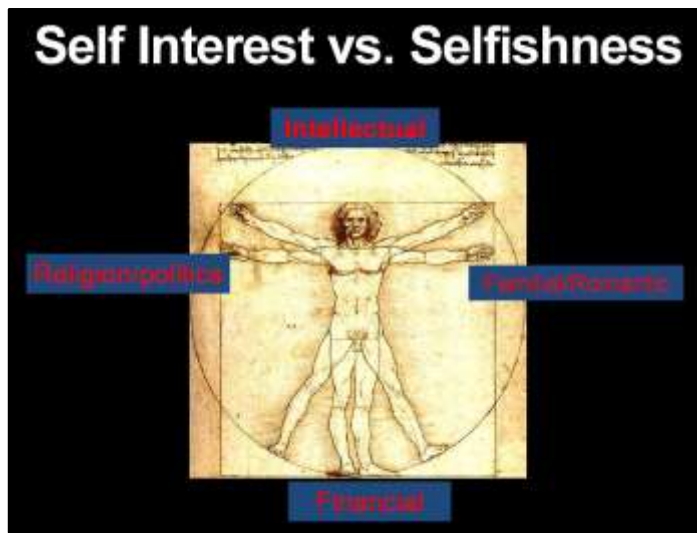
These are straightforward ideas. Let's see what happens out in the messy real world.

Judging the Reliability of Sources

Independent Sources
Are **Better** Than
Self-Interested Sources

Okay, rule 1...

Self Interest vs. Selfishness



Rational Self Interest, looking after your health, your wealth, your loved-ones and your comrades is not the same thing as selfishness, which is a childish or irrational desire to possess that is not satisfied by obtaining.

You've seen Leonardo DaVinci's "Vitruvian Man", which was his ground-breaking reduction of human proportions to geometry.

We used this memorable image a couple of lectures ago to help you think about journalistic independence.

Today we use it to think about the independence of SOURCES, the people quoted or interviewed in news reports.

Sources are human, pulled in all directions, by emotional connections, by the comrades they choose in political and religious contention, by their financial supporters or business, and by their intellect. Shaped by their unique experience, it dictates how they see the world.

No one can be perfectly independent of these forces. But a reliable source is independent, or at least honest about their self-interest in a situation.

A Self-interested source...

NYDailyNews.com

DAILY NEWS

Mitt Romney, GOP front-runner in 2012 presidential race, now focus of White House, Democrats barbs

Romney is "stunningly inconsistent" on issues such as taxes and health care, Axelrod told reporters. "Romney has been so brazen, frankly, in his switches of position.

"If you are willing to change positions on fundamental issues of principle, how can we know what you will do as President?"

Is President Obama's senior campaign strategist independent, when it comes to Mitt Romney, or self-interested? Does that make him a reliable judge of Romney's character?

http://articles.nydailynews.com/2011-10-12/news/30291595_1_mitt-romney-romney-spokesman-eric-fehrnstrom-gop-support

An Independent source



Observers slam Russian vote as Putin declares victory

From Phil Black and Jill Dougherty, CNN
updated 9:24 PM EST, Mon March 5, 2012

"The election has not been exemplary, to say the least," said French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

"The point of an election is that the outcome should be uncertain. This was not the case in Russia," said Tonino Picula, the head of an observer mission from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

ANIMATION: quotes come in on clicks
Is Russian President Vladimir Putin a reliable source for information on the fairness of this month's Presidential Election in Russia?

What about a foreign observer like French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe?

What about Mr. Picula, whose job is to quantify voter fraud.

http://www.cnn.com/2012/03/05/world/europe/russia-election/index.html?hpt=hp_t3

Independence: Rival Praises Finding

Decoded DNA Reveals Details Of Black Death Germ



Scientists have used DNA lurking inside the teeth of medieval Black Death victims to figure out the entire genetic code of the deadly bacterium that swept across Europe more than 600 years ago, killing an estimated half of the population...

The Natural History Museum of Denmark's Thomas Gilbert is one of the scientists who tried to find plague DNA in Black Death victims in the past without success. He says the new technique used in this study is exciting and the analysis is compelling. "It's a great result. It looks very, very convincing," Gilbert says. "There's no reason why the data shouldn't be real."

It's hard to find a source with expertise who is perfectly independent, but here's a great example.

Scientists believe they have decoded the DNA of the medieval Black Plague by flossing flesh from between the teeth of ancient remains.

The Times talked to a competitor who says though he failed, he thinks this team of scholars has succeeded.

Why does that make him extra reliable?

Eating Disorders a New Front in Insurance Fight

NYT – (October 13, 2011) People with eating disorders like anorexia have opened up a new battleground in the insurance wars, testing the boundaries of laws mandating equivalent coverage for mental illnesses.

"There's a wide variation in licensing across the country," said Jena L. Estes, vice president for the federal employee program at the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. "There's a lack of oversight of many of those residential treatment centers."

Ira Burnim, legal director of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, which litigates for better mental health treatments, said that while he was not familiar with eating disorders, "study after study" had shown that residential centers for other mental or emotional disorders were not as effective as treatment at home.

Dr Anne E. Becker, president of the Academy of Eating Disorders and director of the eating disorders program at Massachusetts General Hospital, said that despite a paucity of studies, "There's no question that residential treatment is life-saving for some patients."

Should health insurers be required to pay for treatment of eating disorders, just as they are required to pay for treatment of other mental disorders?

It's an open question, so this reporter goes to a variety of sources.

Are they reliable? What is the challenge to their reliability?

Estes financial well-being may be threatened if insurers are forced to pay.

Burnim isn't particularly expert in this area, but he earns his living by taking insurers to court to pay for mental health care. He says studies show other disorders are best treated at home, not in residential treatment centers.

Becker is an expert in the field and president of the organization of doctors who treat eating disorders, but she earns her living from residential treatment of eating disorders.

Independent Sources Are Better Than Self-Interested Sources

The New York Times

A North Carolina Lifeline Built on Shifting Sands

But people who live and work on the Outer Banks say abandoning the road would make life impossible.

"You would see people with nothing left," said Eddie Williams, who was born and raised on Hatteras Island. He manages the Paint Box, a gift shop in the village of Hatteras. "It would be devastating," he said.

Robert S. Young, a coastal geologist who is head of the [Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines](#) at Western Carolina University, calls the project "our own little bridge to nowhere."

"They can engineer that bridge so well that it can withstand a Category 3 or 4 hurricane," Dr. Young said in a telephone interview. "The barrier island it is connected to cannot."

The issue in question: should tax dollars be spent on a bridge in some of the most hurricane-plagued real estate on the Eastern Seaboard?

A shopkeeper from Hatteras will benefit greatly if tourists have an easy road to town.

A geologist who studies what happens to manmade infrastructure on coastlines has another take on it.

Who is more reliable?

Why?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/06/science/highway-12-outer-banks-lifeline-is-under-siege-by-nature.html?ref=science>

An Independent source

Los Angeles Times

Santorum hopes to narrow the field in Kansas



"This is pretty much Rick Santorum country this year," said Joe Aistrup, a political science professor at Kansas State University, explaining that the former Pennsylvania senator's uncompromising stances on social issues, including abortion, appeal to the die-hard conservatives who show up at caucuses. "It'd be bigger news if Santorum didn't win."

Lots of people have opinions about the outcome of presidential primaries and caucuses.

Talk radio and talk TV is full of predictions. What about Joe Alstrup? What's the value of his opinion?

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-kansas-caucuses-20120310,0,369205.story>



Seems kind of snarky doesn't it? The woman's being dragged away by Libyan security forces and the Associated Press writes: *"Her story could not be independently verified..."*

Journalists have a saying: "If your mother says she loves you, check it out"

The idea is that any source who is not independent is to be doubted. Your mother is supposed to love you, so of course she'd say that. Journalists are this way because, like police, they get lied to a lot.


Remember Twain's comment that the printing press gave untruth a double set of wings? Grifters gravitate to newsrooms. If they can get their story picked up by a news outlet, they'll get a lot farther, whatever their goal is. Hence the preference for independent sources, a preference you should

adopt.

Self Interest vs. Selfishness

CBSNEWS

9 more claim abuse by ex-Red Sox clubhouse chief



Ron Shelton, a former Orioles attendant, said Fitzpatrick molested him twice, the first time after cornering him in an equipment room in 1990 at Memorial Stadium.

"I just want to know, `Why did this happen?' He violated me," Shelton said at a news conference with Garabedian in Boston on Monday.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there were hundreds of victims of Donald Fitzpatrick out there," Garabedian said. "Pedophiles don't stop until they're caught, or until they pass away. They just do not stop and he had a 30-year reign."

Garabedian said he's asking for \$5 million for each victim from the Orioles or Red Sox, depending on which team they worked for when Fitzpatrick allegedly abused them.

ANIMATION: Quotes come in on clicks.

We'll circle back to this question of degree of self-interest...but we hope you grasp a nuanced view of self interest. For instance...

After the Red Sox clubhouse chief died, a growing number of former clubhouse workers came forward to complain he had, when they were boys, molested them.

What is the difference in the nature of the self-interest of the plaintiffs and their lawyer?

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-400_162-57390873/9-more-claim-abuse-by-ex-red-sox-clubhouse-chief/

Judging the Reliability of Sources

Multiple Sources
Are **Better** Than
Single Sources

In the courtroom, we call it corroboration. In scientific circles, we say data is stronger if multiple researchers conducting the same experiment generate the same findings.

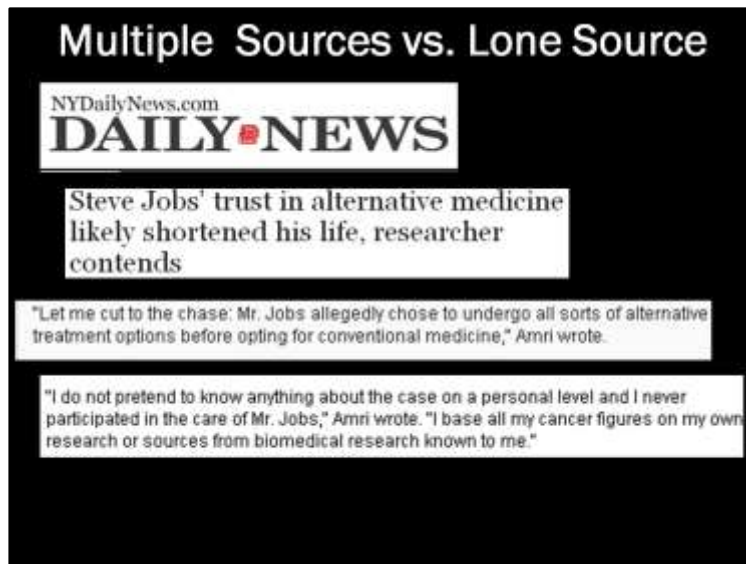
It's more than just strength in numbers. If several people, especially people independent of one another, are saying the same thing...you can trust it more.



(Animation: headline comes in automatically. Click for image of the bloodied dictator.)

When there was just one source telling reporters that Gadhafi had been captured and killed. But the story was given greater and greater weight when a variety of sources, independent from one another, were found to be saying the same thing: it's like the blind men and the elephant. If they all start describing different elements of the same event, the report has greater validity.

http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2011/10/20/libyan-fighters-say-they-have-captured-gadhafi/?iref=BN1&hpt=hp_t1



Animation: headline and first quote come in automatically. The last quote comes in on a click

Just after Steve Jobs died of cancer, the Daily News found a Harvard doctor who said the Apple Computers founder would have lived longer if he had stuck with mainstream medicine.

He's the only person saying this. (And he didn't examine Jobs.)

What kind of weight would you give this source?

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/10/14/2011-10-14_steve_jobs_trust_in_alternative_medicine_likely_shortened_his_life_researcher_co.html



If only John O'Keefe says Massachusetts lawmakers found Romney hard to get to know, you'd give it some thought.

But then you've got a member of the other party and a key committee chairman saying the same thing.

And finally, a third voice, from a current staffer, confirming that Governor Romney didn't join the Statehouse club.

What do you think of the sourcing on this report?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/10/us/politics/romneys-ceo-style-in-massachusetts-could-irk-lawmakers.html?ref=politics>


Reconstructing the Blackwater Incident in Nusoor Square



(NEWS FELLOW LINK VIDEO HERE)

(Lecturer: This is a long piece, 6:27, but an excellent demonstration of the power of multiple sources, many of whom are also independent and/or Interested in very important ways)

Now let's watch this story and think about corroboration.



Blackwater.wmv

(NEWS FELLOW LINK VIDEO HERE)

(Lecturer: This is a long piece, 6:27, but an excellent demonstration of the power of multiple sources, many of whom are also independent and/or Interested in very important ways)

Now let's watch this story and think about corroboration.



ASK: Do you evaluate these sources differently as a group than you evaluate them one-by one?

Why is that?

ASK: Break these sources down for me.

How do you evaluate each one?

- **Omar Wasso**, the rooftop witness, who is a pro-American supporter of Kurdistan
- **Erik Prince**, the President of Blackwater Security
- **The two police officers**, Ali Khalaf Salman and his partner
- An investigation by **the U.S. Army**
- A statement from **the State Department**, which had hired Blackwater
- **Wounded Taxi driver** (phonetic) Baras Hadoun

Judging the Reliability of Sources

Sources Who **V**erify
Are **Better** Than
Sources Who Assert

Where are we now?

I.M..... **V**

ASK: What is the difference between Verify and Assert?

In the report on the Blackwater shooting, which sources are able to verify what they say, and which are merely asserting?

Verifying or Asserting?

Citizens' Testing Finds 20 Hot Spots Around Tokyo



The Tokyo citizens' group...in consultation with the Yokohama-based Isotope Research Institute, collected soil samples from near their own homes.

Some of the results were shocking: the sample that Mr. Hayashida collected under shrubs near his neighborhood baseball field in the Edogawa ward measured nearly 138,000 becquerels per square meter of radioactive cesium 137, which can damage cells and lead to an increased risk of cancer.

These citizens of Tokyo did not believe the government's statements that they were safe from radiation after the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster.

They took samples and sent them to a test lab.

When they complained about radiation contamination, were they asserting or verifying?

A Corollary to Last Week's Lesson:



Just Like We
Always ask:
*"Did the Reporter
Open the Freezer?"*

You can also ask"
*"Did the Source
Open the Freezer?"*

One way to think of this is as a corollary to the Open the Freezer rule.

Shouldn't the reporter always ask a source if he or she opened the freezer? Isn't that what we mean by asserting versus verifying?

One more way to think of it is this:

In Texas, when someone is accused of bragging they often come back with this phrase: *"It ain't braggin' if ya done it."*

Maybe that's a useful way to think about sources. *"It ain't assertin' if ya prove it."*

Judging the Reliability of Sources

Authoritative/**I**nformed Sources
Are **Better** Than
Un-informed Sources

IMVAIN...I-M-V

A/I (WE USE TWO LETTERS FOR ONE RULE)

Now we are at A/I...a reliable source is and Authoritative or well-informed about the events or topics on which they are quoted (or interviewed).

Authoritative vs. Uninformed

Los Angeles Times

Ohio earthquakes linked to natural gas drilling



"After investigating all available geological formation and well activity data, [Ohio Department of Natural Resources] regulators and geologists found a number of co-occurring circumstances strongly indicating the Youngstown area earthquakes were induced," state officials reported. "Specifically, evidence gathered by state officials suggests fluid from the Northstar 1 disposal well intersected an unmapped fault in a near-failure state of stress causing movement along that fault."

If you've been paying attention to the Upstate New York battles over the hydraulic fracturing of bedrock to release natural gas, you may have heard some activists complain that in addition to their worries about toxic fracking fluids leaking into well water...the forces unleashed in fracking may trigger earthquakes. Pretty far-fetched stuff, when it comes from an English major carrying a picket sign.

What about when it comes from scientists and bureaucrats at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources?

Why does that change the weight you give that claim?

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-fracking-quake-20120310,0,3295304.story>



ANIMATION: One Click covers up Mr. Moore's conspiratorial suggestions with the answer from the Wildlife Health Center's lab

Shortly after New Years 2011, thousands of dead blackbirds were found near Beebe, Arkansas. Network news coverage included clips from Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 horror film: "The Birds."

In Beebe, local TV reporters interviewed a Mr. Moore, whose New Year mood was a little dark, suggesting officials were covering up something sinister that was causing the die-offs.

ASK: What kind of source is he?

CLICK AND ASK: What kind of source is the Wildlife Health Center?

(which autopsied the birds and found they died of trauma, likely from being startled on New Years Eve by fireworks...

Judging the Reliability of Sources

Named Sources
Are **Better** Than
Unnamed Sources

This one seems so obvious it is barely worth mentioning, but it's a good time to mention this complex idea:
Let's look at this simple idea, encapsulated in the very first slide: **"Says Who?"**

ASK: As a reader, how does it strike you when a news report relies on un-named sources?

Do you think there are good reasons for a source to be anonymous?

What are they?



(ANIMATION: First three clicks go from Nixon waving farewell from Marine 1 through a series of headlines detailing his fall. Fourth Click brings up the Deep Throat covers.)

ASK: Who is this guy? (it's Nixon on the steps of Marine 1)

It is pretty tempting to dismiss all anonymous sources as untrustworthy, especially after the WMD debacle.

But when corroborated with other kinds of evidence, un-named sources can be the only way news consumers learn about serious problems in government or elsewhere.

An anonymous source was one key to the Washington Post's investigation of the attempted cover-up of the role Nixon's White House and campaign played in a break-in at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee.

"Deep Throat" was first introduced to the public in the book written by Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein about how they broke the Watergate story. His identity was the best-kept secret in Washington until June 2005, when his imminent death prompted him to go public. He was Mark Felt, the 2nd-in-command at the FBI and he fed the reporters a series of tips the FBI had been forced to sit on by the Nixon Whitehouse.

The scandal would eventually lead to the resignation of President Nixon as well as prison terms for six White House staffers and presidential advisers. Felt was the key to the Washington Post's Watergate investigation. Without his information, The puny Washington, D.C. newspaper would not have been able to take on the Executive Branch of the U.S. government.



When the Boston Globe reported on the Sox' epic 7-20 September meltdown, reporters quoted un-named "team sources" who said that Red Sox Manager Terry Francona was high on pain medications and distracted by worries over his son and son-in-law, both of whom are Marine Corps officers serving in Iraq.

Here's how the Globe described it's un-named sources.

Is that enough to give you confidence in the report?

ASK: What do you and can you know about an anonymous source?

Characterizing Unnamed Sources

Despite Promise of Reforms, Syrian Forces Try to Disperse Protesters With Gunfire

By THE NEW YORK TIMES

DAMASCUS, Syria — The political crisis in [Syria](#) deepened on Monday as the armed forces in the restive southern city of Dara'a fired live ammunition in the air to disperse hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators who had taken to the streets.

"They were marching peacefully, asking for their rights, when the army opened fire at them," said one witness who declined to be identified for fear of reprisals. "But this is not the end."

ASK: Do you think there is a good reason for the witness to be anonymous?

The standard newsroom rule is that an anonymous source must personally known by the reporter and must have a legitimate fear of harm if they are named. They must provide information of serious public interest that is not available on the record and that has been corroborated by other sources, documents or photos.

Did the reporters' use of anonymous sources in these examples meet those guidelines? Was the use of anonymous sources well-explained in each report?

Are the exceptions acceptable?

Vaccines are Dangerous? Sez Who?

VaccineBachman.wmv

NEWS FELLOW LINK ABOVE-NAMED VIDEO TO THIS SLIDE, PLEASE.

This is GOP Presidential candidate Michelle Bachman outlining her opposition to a decision by her opponent, Texas Governor Rick Perry.

He signed an executive order mandating that all 12-year-old girls get the HPV inoculation, which protects them a virus that drastically increases their odds of cancer.

(ends with a doctor discussing it)

Is Bachman's source reliable? Why or why not?

Evaluating Anonymous Sources

The Washington Post

NEWS | LOCAL | POLITICS | SPORTS | OPINIONS | BUSINESS | ARTS & LIVING

Still falling short on anonymous sources

By Andrew Alexander

Ombudsman

"Senior administration officials" said they were frustrated with how Deeds was handling his campaign "administration officials" predicted he would lose on Tuesday.

All these anonymous sources were too much for Post reader Dee Ellison of Falls Church.

She's right. Anonymous sources often are necessary. And too many of them appear in The Post.

But there's another problem. When they must be used, The Post doesn't do a good enough job of explaining why.

ANIMATION: TWO CLICKS. First brings up the offending quote from "officials" Second brings up ombudsman's comments.)

Once you start permitting public officials to speak off the record, they all want to. Call it an accountability deficit.

This example is from the Washington Post's ombudsman.

It's a problem everywhere.

New York Times ombudsman Clark Hoyt correctly notes that readers "distrust nameless snipers."

Evaluating Anonymous Sources

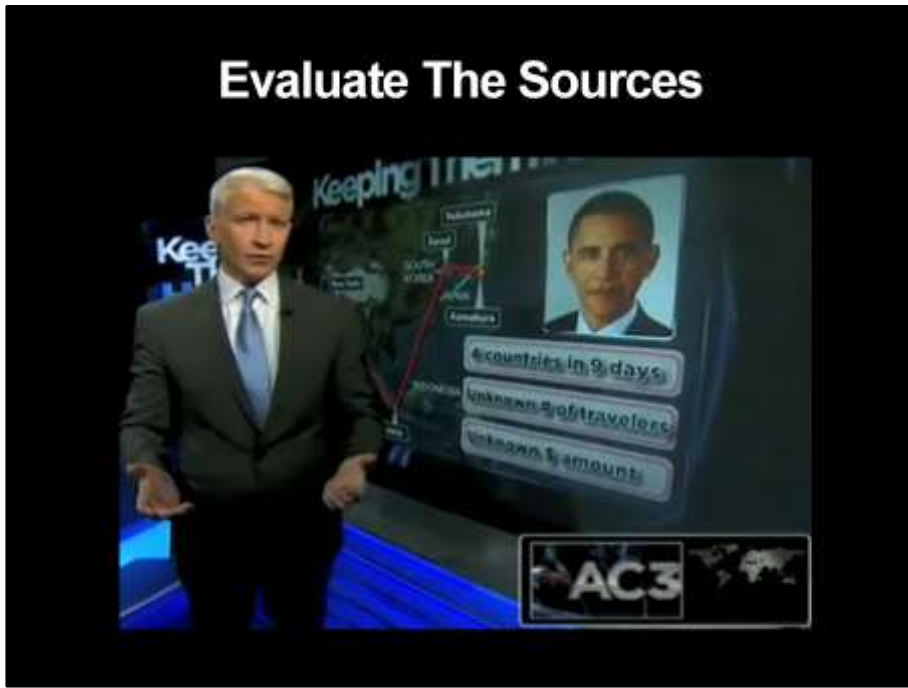
Transparency
Characterization
Corroboration (evidence/sources)

We revisit this question later this semester, but here are some questions to ask when you're evaluating an anonymous source:

- Is there an adequate explanation why the source must remain anonymous (fear of retribution, prosecution)
- Is there sufficient information given to establish the source's value ("A witness...a co-worker")
- Is there other information in the story, from named sources, documents or other forms of evidence, that independently corroborates what the anonymous source says?

If not, are you being asked to take too much on faith?

Evaluate The Sources



When persistent reports circulated in early 2011 that President Obama's trip to India was costing \$200 Million per day, Anderson Cooper went to the source of the information.

Sources



"The huge amount of around \$200 million would be spent on security, stay and other aspects of the Presidential visit," a top official of the Maharashtra Government privy to the arrangements for the high-profile visit said.



Outlets



Let's evaluate the sources in this report. Remember, don't get confused between the Sources in news reports and the Outlets that quote those sources in news reports...

Evaluate The Sources

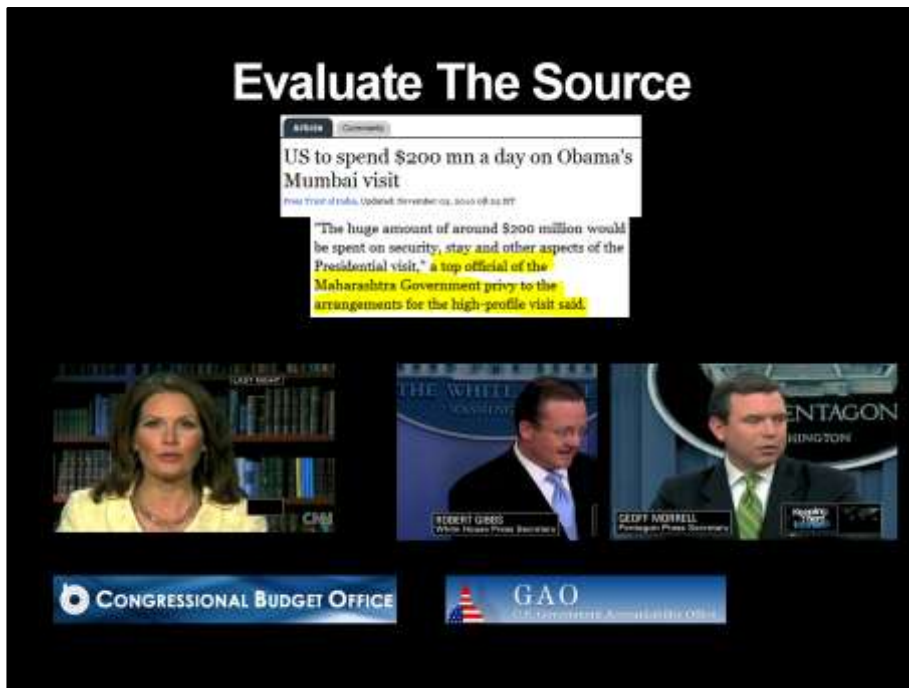
COOPER200mIL.WMV

(NEWS FELLOW LINK VIDEO HERE)

(Lecturers: it's a monster. 6 minutes!)

This is an Anderson Cooper piece about the outlandish “200 million a day” figure regarding Pres. Obama’s trip to India.

But , you could stop at the end of Geoff Morrell’s remarks, around 4:46



Okay, so let's break these down using I M V A/I N.

ASK: Congresswoman **Michele Bachmann**, R-Minnesota?

ASK: **Robert Gibbs**, then-White House Press Secretary ?

ASK: **Geoff Morrell**, Pentagon Press Spokesman?

ASK: **Congressional Budget Office**?

(House and Senate leaders select director for 4-year term)

ASK: **Government Accountability Office**?

(Congress Proposes director, President appoints to 15-year term)

When Is A Self-Interested Source A Reliable Source?

Women in Texas Losing Options for Health Care in Abortion Fight

Many San Carlos patients struggle to reach Edinburg from their homes in impoverished neighborhoods called colonias. Maria Romero, a housecleaner with four children, who had a lump in her breast discovered at the San Carlos clinic, has no way to get there.

Ms. Parra, 33, the mother of five, managed to borrow a car to get to Edinburg after a pap smear at the San Carlos clinic indicated she might have cervical cancer. Further tests showed she was cancer-free.

Both women worry about getting birth control pills; the clinic may now have to charge them up to \$20 for a month's supply.

"I will have to go without," Ms. Parra said as she left an English class at a community center and was walking to pick up her two youngest children from a Head Start program. "If I get pregnant again, God forbid."

In Texas, Republican lawmakers have cut general women's healthcare funding for Planned Parenthood because it also provides abortions.

To illustrate the impacts of the law, this reporter interviewed women from low-income families who relied on the clinics that are closing down.

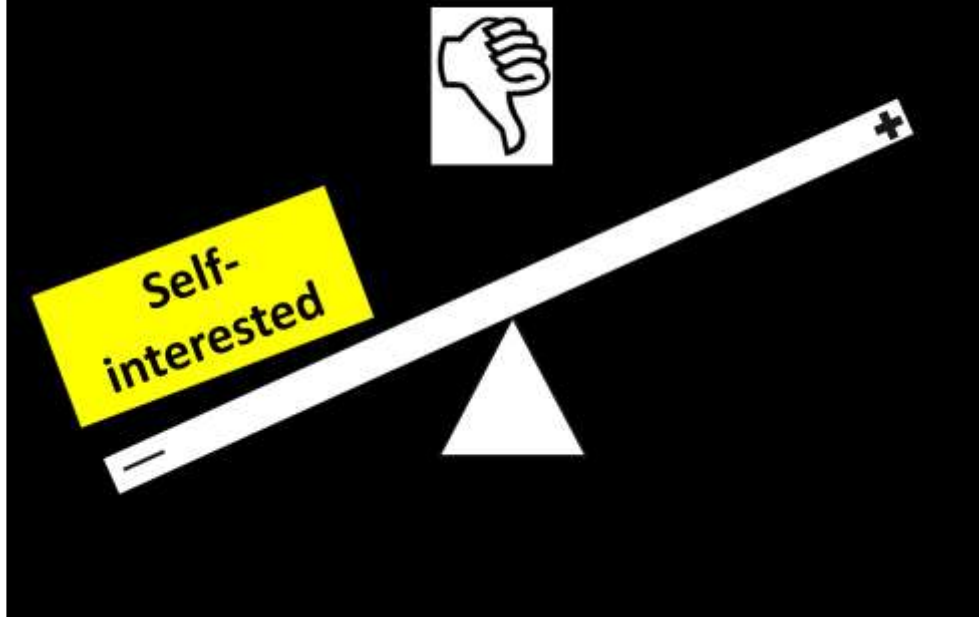
What is the self-interest of these women?

Think of the Vitruvian Man diagram: financial, emotional, intellectual...what compromises their independent thought about this event?

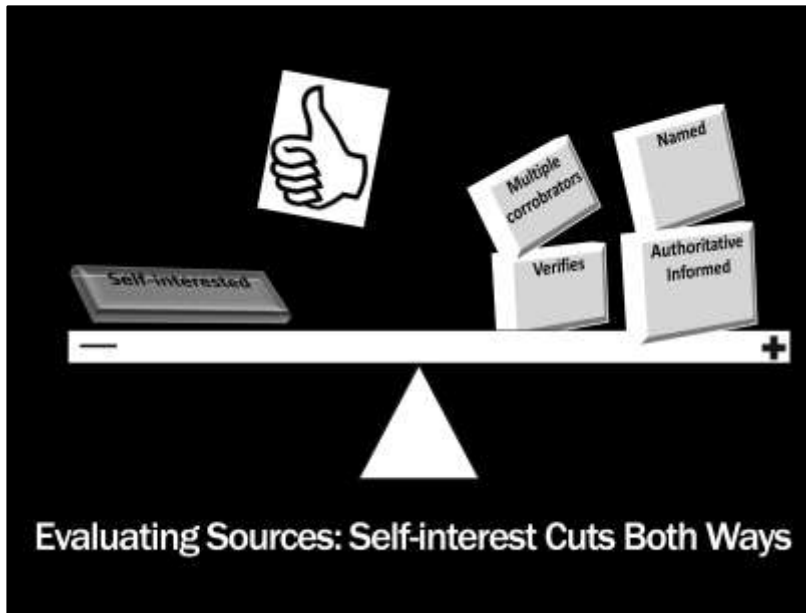
Now...does that mean their information is invalid?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/08/us/texas-womens-clinics-retreat-as-finances-are-cut.html?scp=2&sq=texas%20planned%20parenthood&st=cse>

Evaluating Sources: Clients of the clinics




You might be tempted to dismiss the clients of the low-income clinics as self-interested sources who just want to complain about the inconvenience, or support their medical care providers...



Animation: On second click, scale items come piling in after a few seconds.

But they are also Authoritative and Informed by virtue of having been to the clinics and used them for services other than abortions, They are able to verify this with observations and with documentation Several clinic patients corroborate this account. And people like Ms. Parra are named. This is an exceptionally clear-cut case, but we cite it to help you think carefully about self-interest when you see it. After all, who knows more about a situation than someone deeply involved in it. That means they have an interest, but it also means they know what's going on.



CampDeath.wmv

(NEWS FELLOW LINK VIDEO HERE)

Okay, one more case

As you watch this report, take note of the sources and evidence and start judging the reliability of the report.



Okay, so let's break these down using I M V A/I N.

ASK: **The Mother?**

ASK: **Congressman Miller, the legislative expert?**

ASK: **The State of Texas Investigation?**

ASK: **Government Accountability Office?**

(Congress Proposes director, President appoints to 15-year term)

Judging the Reliability of Sources

Independent Sources Are Better Than Self-Interested Sources

Multiple Sources Are **Better** Than Single Sources

Sources Who **V**erify Are **Better** Than Sources Who Assert

Authoritative/**I**nformed Sources Are **Better** Than Uninformed Sources

Named Sources Are **Better** Than Unnamed Sources

(Mnemonic Device: I'M VAIN)

Just a reminder of how we evaluate sources:

I

'M

V

A/I

N

Key Lesson:

Evaluate Sources

Evaluate Sources

Evaluate Sources

Does verification trump self-interest? It depends. Does authority outweigh anonymity? Sometimes. Is singularity and anonymity a fatal flaw? It might be. It often frustrates students that there is no formula. But there can't be. The five rules of source evaluation: I.M.V.A/I.N give you a vocabulary with which to make judgments with clarity, but critical thinking is lonely work: you, probing information and Thinking For Yourself. We may disagree with you in the amount of weight you give to characteristics, but so long as you are evaluating sources and not just taking for granted their weight...you are well on your way to News Literacy, particularly if you begin to demand that your news diet consist of reports built on credible sources.

**Evaluate Sources
To Find Reliable Information
With Which You:
Make a Decision
Take Action
Inform Others**

And as always, this is not some snazzy jargon intended to make you insufferable to your friends and family. Rather, it is a crucial skill in your civic life.

Preparing to Deconstruct the News

- 1) What Do I Know?
- 2) How Do I Know It?
- 3) What Don't I Know?

Combining the skills of this lecture and the prior lecture on evidence prepares you to look for transparency and context that allow you to reasonably judge the quality of a report.

These three questions will help you decide if a news report has provided adequate **context** to prevent you from drawing a false conclusion and if the journalist has been **transparent** about how the information was collected, and from whom:

What Do I Know?

How do I know It?

What Don't I know?

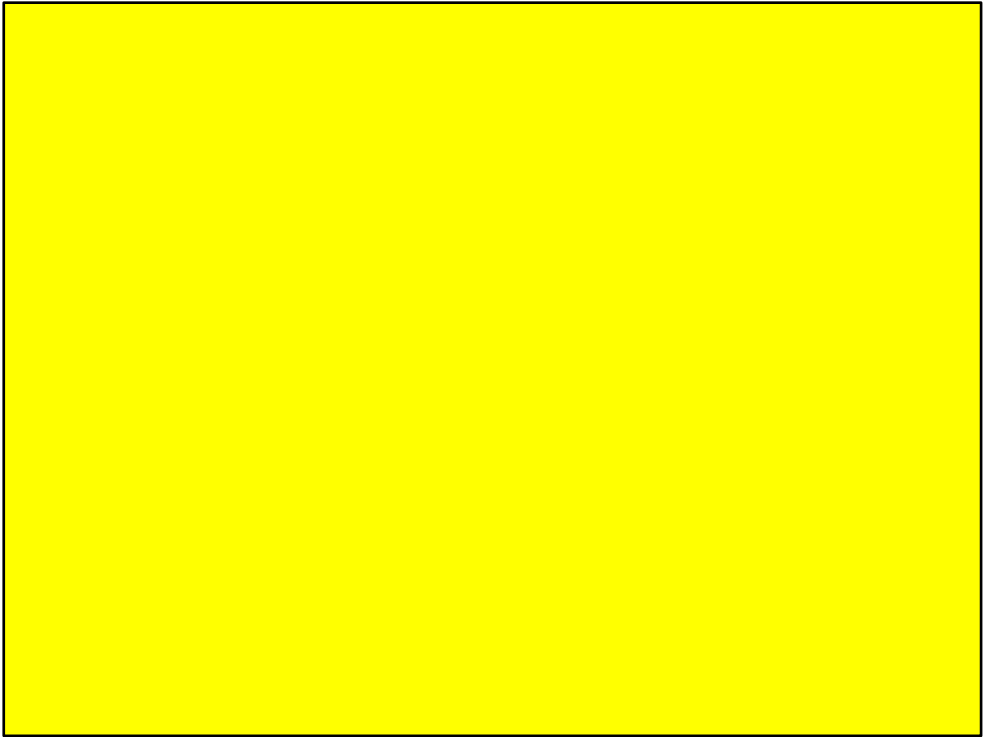
In the end, it's all about the news consumer weighing the evidence to reach a conclusion. No story is perfect and it's up to you to decide: Is this reliable?

Assignments:

Each lecture will paste
screengrab of their
BlackBoard homework site
here.



hus endeth the Lesson...



No? Then... Pop Quiz!



Sodom and Gomorrah



Are there ten students in class who have done the work?

For use by lecturers who suspect the readings aren't being done.

Named Sources vs. Unnamed Sources

New York Proposes Delay for Waste Transfer Stations



"Moving the costs of these facilities to future budgets in no way confers priority upon them in those budgets." **Garvin Kearney, director of the environmental justice program at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest,** wrote in a memo to the City Council, which is holding budget hearings. "And

A city official with knowledge of the budget process, speaking on condition of anonymity, pointed out that not all proposals make it into the final capital plan.

"It is very possible these cuts will be reversed," said the official, who said he spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of budget negotiations.

In this New York Times report from the Green Blog, the reporter has the representative of an environmental group on the record by name and organization and then a city official who won't be quoted by name.

ASK: Do you think there is a good reason for the official to be anonymous?

As a reader, how does the lack of a name strike you?

Are anonymous sources ever valid?

How about this example



Representative Gabrielle Giffords, an Arizona Democrat, was shot in the head at point-blank range and critically wounded in a shooting rampage on Jan. 8 that left 12 other people wounded and six people dead outside a Tucson supermarket where the congresswoman was meeting with constituents. Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik says nasty political rhetoric got his friend Gabrielle shot.

On the slide is one of his first comments, made shortly after he got back into town from a business trip.

Ask: Is he Authoritative and/or Informed?

Here's what we know: Sheriff Dupnik, age 75, was reared in Bisbee, Arizona, a mining town. He was president of his graduating class at Bisbee High School and seriously considered the priesthood, but instead, in 1955, enrolled at the University of Arizona. He majored in criminal justice, but left before graduating. He joined the Tucson Police Department as a patrol officer in 1958 and by 1976, was a major in the Tucson department when the Pima County Sheriff hired him as chief deputy. Dupnik, a registered Democrat, has won every election since his first in 1980. In 2008, he won with nearly 65 percent of the vote. His longevity as well as his political skill have made him a de facto leader among Pima County Democrats. (—Arizona Republic)

Is he a psychologist? Is he a psychiatrist? Has he examined the defendant at length (no)

This is the thing about Authority...Just because you are AN authority, doesn't mean you are Authoritative about everything.

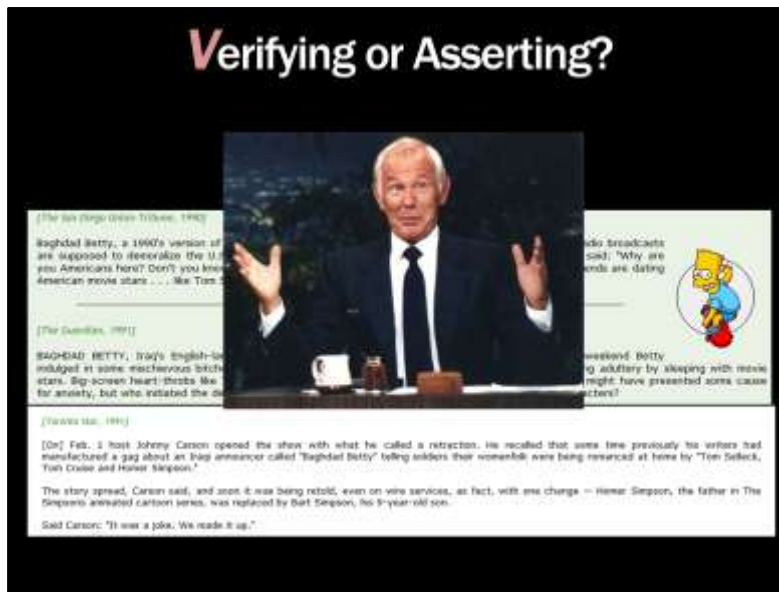
Because he is privy to the investigation and has talked to officers who were at the shooting scene, he can verify numerous pieces of information and facts about the shooting.

But as to Loughner's mental health and mental state and the effects of political rhetoric, his assertions carry about as much weight as yours, which

is to say very little weight.



Clovis-style arrow and spear-points (first found in Clovis, New Mexico) have long been identified as the signs of the first humans in North America. They are theorized to have crossed the long-gone ice shelf from Northeast Asia to North America about 13,000 years ago. The similarity in flint-knapping marks on these tools is what the theory was built on. Tools of the same age 5,600 miles apart look almost identically the same, while other regions produced different styles of tools. Now, scientists have identified stone tools in Texas from deeper soil sediments that pre-date Clovis technology. Point is, the scientists debating this point all have experience and education that qualifies them to debate the point. You wouldn't rely on your Uncle Murray...unless he were an archaeologist.



(ANIMATION: First click: two stories about Bart Simpson and Baghdad Betty. Second, Johnny Carson

The San Diego Union Tribune and Guardian of London report, with no verification, about a psychological warfare radio announcer named “Baghdad Betty” trying to hurt morale by telling American GIs that Hollywood stars like Bart Simpson are back home in America making love to their wives and girlfriends.

Hilarious, right? Now how did those two newspapers verify that? With a recording? A transcript? A witness? NEXT CLICK: It turns out Johnny Carson’s writers made it up, he read it on air, it circulated and ended up as “news.”

(Source of this research is Snopes.com)

Transparency About Anonymity

Newsday: Bomber I'm Guilty



(NEWS FELLOW LINK VIDEO on next slide

(This is 3:05 minutes, but can be stopped as soon as the PBA guy makes his first remarks.)

On March 13, Police arrived at Massapequa Park and came upon 21-year-old Anthony Digeronimo, who had knives strapped to his body and in his hands, according to Detective Lt. Kevin Smith. Digeronimo allegedly ran into his parents' home, and barricaded himself inside a bedroom before charging police with a knife. Police shot and killed him. About 10 minutes later, during the confusion, an MTA officer shot and killed a fellow police officer at the house.

Here is a follow-up report on that friendly fire

death.



Copshot.wmv

(NEWS FELLOW LINK VIDEO HERE)

(This is 3:05 minutes, but can be stopped as soon as the PBA guy makes his first remarks.)

On March 13, Police arrived at Massapequa Park and came upon 21-year-old Anthony Digeronimo, who had knives strapped to his body and in his hands, according to Detective Lt. Kevin Smith. Digeronimo allegedly ran into his parents' home, and barricaded himself inside a bedroom before charging police with a knife. Police shot and killed him. About 10 minutes later, during the confusion, an MTA officer shot and killed a fellow police officer at the house.

Here is a follow-up report on that friendly fire death.



The Policeman's Benevolent President Jim Carver wasn't at the scene, but he has been told by officers that this retired sergeant is a pest and as the PBA President, is well-versed in police procedures and may even be privy to investigative reports.

Here's part of the PBA's mission statement: *"The PBA is committed to advancing the professional interests of its members. The preservation of the health safety and welfare of its members is of paramount importance to the PBA. The PBA shall act to protect and advance the rights of its members."*

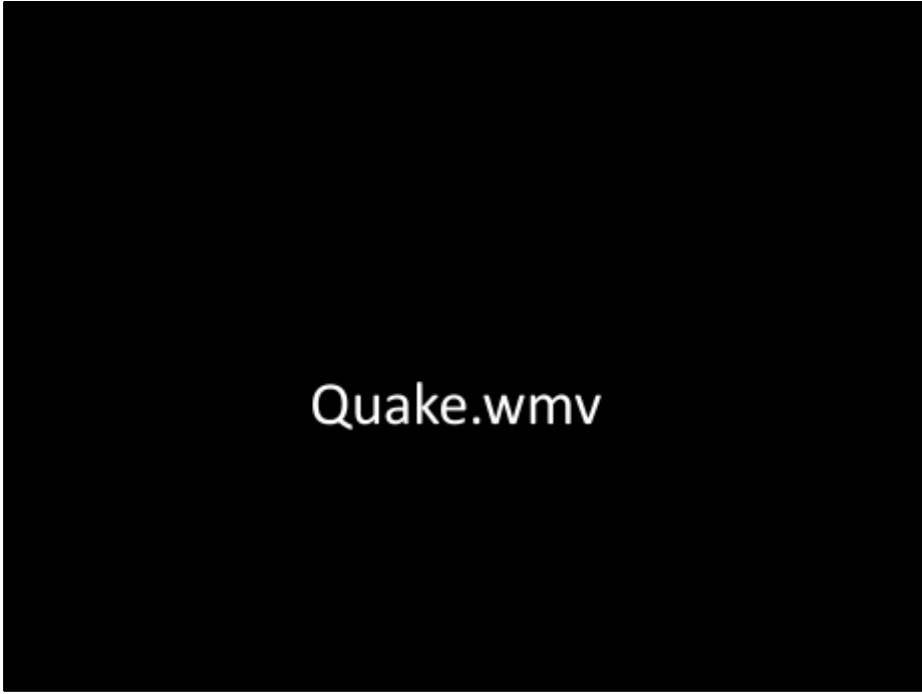
ASK: In the Disinterested search for the truth, what does he offer?

ASK: IS HE AUTHORITATIVE?

IS HE INFORMED?

How much weight do you give him?





Quake.wmv

(NEWS FELLOW: LINK VIDEO HERE)

Montage showing the devastation from the Earthquake in Japan.



(LECTURER: THIS ANIMATION IS COMPLEX:

SLIDE OPENS WITH HIS FACE.

NEXT CLICK BRINGS UP FIRST QUESTION.

NEXT CLICK BRINGS BACK HIS FACE.

AND SO ON UNTIL ALL FIVE QUESTIONS ARE ON THE SCREEN)

ASK STUDENTS:

What is this source's self interest? Does the source have Financial, Familial or Reputational interests in what happened? (reputation)

Does anyone corroborate his story? (The child seems to describe same events. Note Pelle's transparency)

Is it verifiable fact or assertion? (We know the school is demolished. We know he taught there.)

How would this source know? (Chumreonlert was among the teachers and students at school the day of the Tsunami.)

Who exactly is this source? (David Chumreonlert, a native of Texas, who has been teaching English in Matsushima schools for a couple of years, most recently at Nobiru Elementary)

How would you evaluate him as a source of information?

What does he add to your understanding?

This is the process we'll learn today: **EVALUATE SOURCES** for yourself. Just because a journalist quotes them doesn't mean you should accept that person as an oracle of truth.

Says Who?

Cellonplane.wmv

NEWS FELLOW: LINK THE NAMED VIDEO TO THIS SLIDE

AFTER VIDEO RUNS: ASK

For each source, what did you notice?

Self interest.

Corroboration

Verification

Basis of Knowledge/Authority

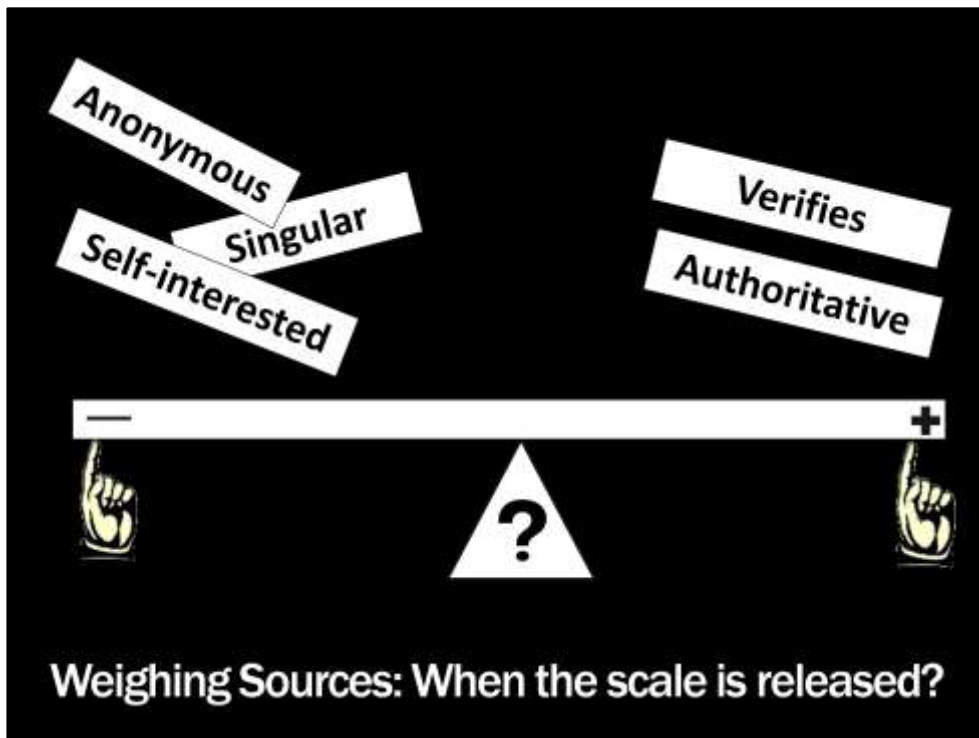
Identity, not just name

(As they get going, Click next slide to assist them in articulating it)



ASK: What do you think of this source, Steve Weber, who is asked to confirm an apocryphal story about the spotting of a long-extinct creature in New Hampshire, the cougar...and responds by noting that a living creature leaves physical evidence: tracks, scat (poo) or hairs that can be DNA tested.

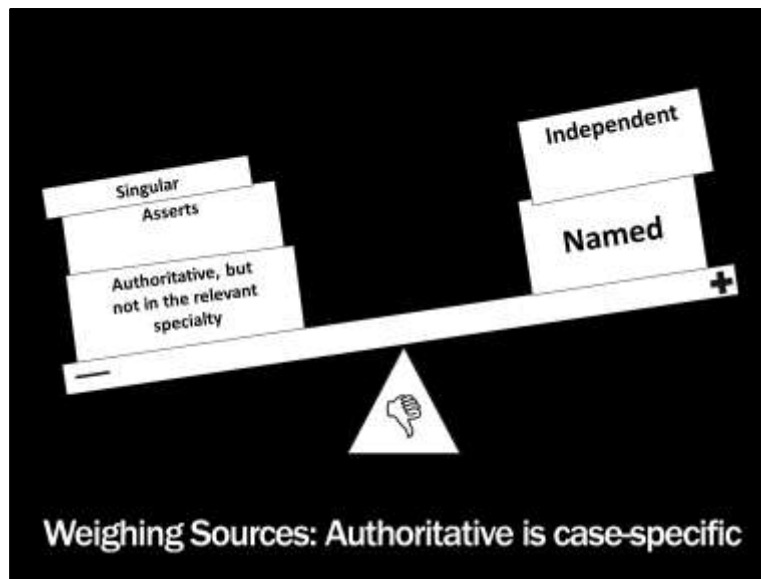
He is a source who is pushing the journalist to do her job, basically, saying the person who spotted a "cougar" ought to be able to verify...



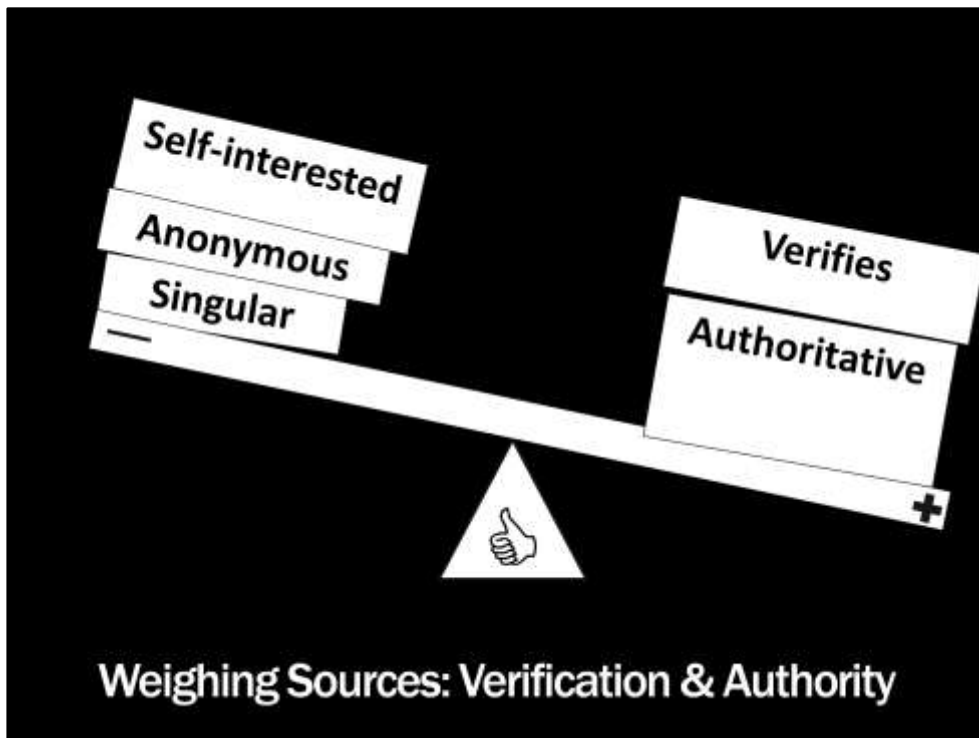
Now try it yourself.

What will this look like once the scale is released?

Would this one be thumbs up or thumbs down?



Here's the kind of sophistication we expect you to bring to your evaluation of sources. A named and independent source sounds great. But you might not give them much weight if they are anonymous. But...if they are well-informed and authoritative say it's a story about vaccination safety and this anonymous source is a medical doctor. Better yet, she cites studies and other research showing Further, he doesn't cite evidence for his claim that H1N1 vaccination is dangerous. And, the report doesn't indicate any other doctors saying the same thing.



The problem with self-interest is that even though it's a negative, it is also a constant of sorts. A really authoritative source will be one who is close to some dangerous or illegal activity, so she will either be afraid of losing her job or her life or some money. But because she is so far inside, she's got documents or photos or other evidence that verifies what she is saying.

Sources Who Verify vs. Sources Who Assert

In Private, Wall St. Bankers Dismiss Protesters as Unsophisticated

"Most people view it as a ragtag group looking for sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll," said one top hedge fund manager.

"It's not a middle-class uprising," adds another veteran bank executive. "It's fringe groups. It's people who have the time to do this."

A few outspoken members of the financial industry have broken ranks with their more skeptical brethren to say they understand a bit of the outrage of the Occupy Wall Street crowd.

"When I tell people I went down to research the protests, they're shocked, they literally laugh," said Michael Mayo, a veteran bank analyst at Crédit Agricole Securities. "It's just not a location they frequent."

"When I tell people I went down to research the protests, they're shocked, they literally laugh," said Michael Mayo, a veteran bank analyst at Crédit Agricole Securities. "It's just not a location they frequent."

Citigroup's chief executive, Vikram S. Pandit, even said he would be happy to talk with the protesters any time they wanted to drop by. Mr. Pandit, onstage Wednesday at a Fortune magazine conference, said that the protesters' "sentiments were completely understandable."

What DO Wall Street bankers think of the Occupy Wall Street protesters?

You find out right away in this report from the New York Times. And what is the hedge fund manager's basis for saying the protesters are just looking for sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll? Does the bank executive say how he knows the protesters are bums...or trustafarians?

What about Michael Mayo. He is sympathetic. And based on what?

Whose description would you trust more?



So, when the Post looked up the overtime payments made to New York Sanitation workers during the Christmas Blizzard of 2010, it turned out that some earning more than \$5,000 in extra pay, according to city records obtained by The Post. Supervisor David Timmes was the top OT earner, raking in \$5,948.17 for 84 hours of overtime in seven days. Superintendent John Dwyer put in 64 additional hours, earning an extra \$5,568.54. Ten employees made at least \$4,842 in OT from Dec. 26 to 31, according to city payroll records. But none of these workers were out digging the snow -- all were supervisors or superintendents. Timmes was the supervisor of the department's satellite information center. Now, Vito Turso IS in a position to know about the Department, as he is their official spokesman. But if Mr. Timmes spent the week snoozing in his office, would you expect to learn that from Turso?



There are loads of problems with this story, but for the sake of this lecture, let's focus on the fact that there's only one source.

Immediately after Elizabeth Taylor died, a journalist named Kevin Sessums rushed to print with this story, in which he claims in his last interview with Liz Taylor, she confided various secrets to him, in particular this one about film star James Dean's supposed molestation by a preacher. If some other person who was in the position to know this were quoted in the story, it might be solid.

But James Dean died in 1955.


What kind of source is Elizabeth Taylor, now that she's dead?

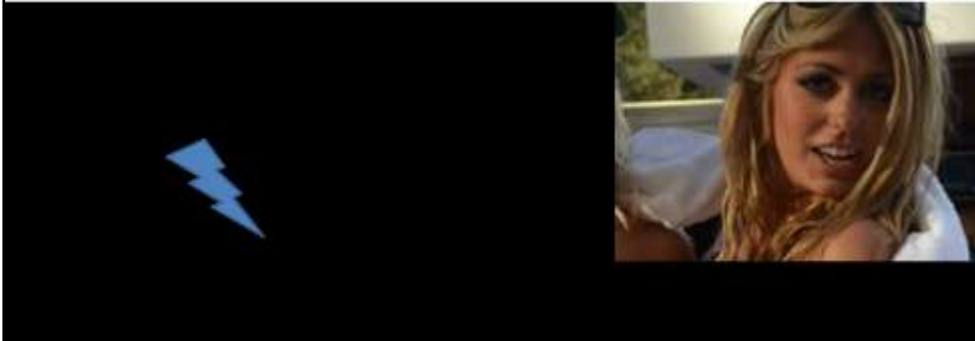
ASK: Do you believe it?

Stories based on 1 Lone Source Weaker than corroborated sources

Ashton's sex gal bares all

It's a steamy hot-tub tale even [Charlie Sheen](#) would be proud of.

Blond bombshell Sara Leal finally broke her silence about the wet and wild romp she shared with [Ashton Kutcher](#) – describing in detail how she had boozy unprotected sex with him twice and was even ready to have a kinky  with her pal.



Here's a breathless report on the latest twists in TV star Ashton Kutcher's love life. Married to actress Demi Moore, he faced this tabloid story: that he had sex with a woman he met in Las Vegas.

When you read the story, she is the only source.

Kutcher is not interviewed.

No witness is interviewed.

It is what we call in the business, with scorn, "A One-Source Wonder."

Authoritative vs. Uninformed

Egypt's Military Expands Power, Raising Alarms



Egyptian Christians clashed with soldiers and riot police during a protest against an anti-Christian law.
AP/Wide World

© DAVID S. PHILLIPS
Illustration October 14, 2011

"We will keep the power until we have a president," Maj. Gen. Mahmoud Hegazy said. The military had pledged in formal communiqués last March to hold the presidential election by September. But the generals now say that will come only after the election of a Parliament, the formation of a constitutional assembly and the ratification of a new constitution – a process that could stretch into 2013 or longer.

Animation: headline and picture come in automatically. Pull quote fades in on click.

In this report on the transfer of power in post-Revolutionary Egypt, you have democracy activists complaining that they expected an elected government by now. The country is being run by the military, so the reporter asked a military leader who speaks for the military government. He is informed and high-ranking, therefore authoritative.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/15/world/middleeast/egypts-military-expands-power-raising-alarms.html>

When Is A Self-Interested Source A Reliable Source?



Pleas Unheeded as Students' U.S. Jobs Soured

By A.A. PRITCHARD
The college student from Moldova was in the United States on a cultural exchange program run for half a century by the federal government, a program designed to build international understanding by providing foreign students with a dream summer of fun in America. So he summoned his best English for the e-mail he sent to the State Department in June.
"Pleas help," wrote the student, Tudor Ureche. He told them about "the miserable situation in which I've found myself caught" since starting a job under the program in a plant packing Hershey's chocolates near the company's namesake town in Pennsylvania.

(Lecturer, familiarize yourself with this story)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/17/us/hershey-foreign-exchange-students-pleas-were-ignored.html?pagewanted=1>

Tudor Ureche, 22, an engineering student from Moldova, says he paid \$6,000 for a student exchange program that gave him a chance to work in the U.S. during his summer vacation, seeing the country and meeting new friends. Instead, he says he endured sweat shop conditions for low pay. It sounds like the plot of a goofball film by Adam Sandler.

October 16, 2011

Pleas Unheeded as Students' U.S. Jobs Soured

The college student from Moldova was in the United States on a cultural exchange program run for half a century by the federal government, a program designed to build international understanding by providing foreign students with a dream summer of fun in America. So he summoned his best English for the e-mail he sent to the State Department in June. "Pleas help," wrote the student, Tudor Ureche. He told them about "the miserable situation in which I've found myself caught" since starting a job under the program in a plant packing Hershey's chocolates near the company's namesake town in Pennsylvania.

Students like Mr. Ureche, who had paid as much as \$6,000 to take part in the program, expected a chance to see the best of this country, to make American friends and sightsee, with a summer job to help finance it all. Instead, many students who were placed at the packing plant found themselves working grueling night shifts on speeding production lines, repeatedly lifting boxes weighing as much as 60 pounds and financially drained by low pay and unexpected extra costs for housing and transportation. Their complaints to the contractor running the program on behalf of the State Department were met with threats that they could be sent home.

Events this summer at the Hershey packing plant in Palmyra, Pa., revealed major holes in the State Department's oversight of its summer work and travel program, the largest and most ambitious of its cultural exchanges. The program, which placed 130,000 foreign students in all sorts of jobs across the country this year, has a large impact in shaping the country's image for young generations overseas.

The Hershey students finally got the department's attention on Aug. 17 when 200 of them, waving placards and chanting union slogans, walked out of the plant, the first labor protest in the 50-year history of the department's exchange programs.

The protests raised questions about whether the State Department is equipped to manage what has become a vast temporary work program, especially in times when suitable jobs for foreign students — even short-term jobs — are harder to come by as high unemployment persists in the United States.

The protests also exposed serious lapses by the Council for Education Travel, USA a nonprofit group based in California and one of more than 70 sponsors contracted by the State Department to organize the students' trips to the United States and find jobs and housing for them. Mr. Ureche, 22, an engineering student, said he had begun to appeal to Cetus for a different job as soon as he went to work lifting boxes loaded with Hershey's candies.

"I've been having serious back pains since the first day of work," Mr. Ureche reported in his e-mail to the State Department on June 6, sent two weeks after he started on the job. "If I continue in this rythm of work, it may cause me serious health damages."

He felt "mistreated and ignored by my sponsor," he wrote. And the organization told him, he said, that if he complained to Washington, "they will immediately cancel my visa." A few days later Mr. Ureche quit his job, making his way to New York and finding work



NEWS FELLOW: LINK THE NAMED VIDEO TO THIS SLIDE

AFTER VIDEO RUNS: ASK

For each source, what did you notice?

Self interest.

Corroboration

Verification

Basis of Knowledge/Authority

Identity, not just name

(As they get going, Click next slide to assist them in articulating it)

The New York Times

NIXON RESIGNS

HE URGES A TIME OF 'HEALING'; FORD WILL TAKE OFFICE TODAY

'Sacrifice' Is Praised; Kissinger to Remain



The 37th President Is First to Quit Post

...the president's resignation... the nation's healing... Ford will take office today...

The Washington Post

Nixon Resigns

...the president's resignation... the nation's healing... Ford will take office today...

Ford Assumes Presidency Today

The Washington Post

Nixon Denies Role in Cover-up, Admits Abuses by Subordinates

U.S. in Appeal Court Order On Milk Data



Says Tapes' Release Would Be 'Crippling'

...the president's resignation... the nation's healing... Ford will take office today...



When CBS News reporter Clarissa Ward snuck in to Syria to report on President Assad's violent reprisal against a rebel uprising, she faced problems with how to report the news. People who appear on camera may be sought out and killed for speaking to foreign media. This is a common problem during political unrest. Let's look at how this reporter solves the problem.

Let's look at these two reports as a prelude to thinking about the risks sources may take if they appear in news reports.

Ward1.wmv

(NEWS FELLOW LINK VIDEO HERE)

Ward2.wmv

(NEWS FELLOW LINK VIDEO HERE)

Ward3.wmv

(NEWS FELLOW LINK VIDEO HERE)