



Over the coming weeks, you'll use this workbook - stocked with examples from actual news reports- to practice "Deconstruction," which is a methodical series of steps by which you apply News Literacy concepts to the analysis of component parts of a news report. The Deconstruction steps are in a chart on the back page of this workbook.

Reminder: Examples in this workbook are drawn from actual news reports, but some have been shortened or altered from the original to suit the purposes of News Literacy exercises.

Headline and Story...Do they match?

Assaults Plague Campus

On October 17, 2006, Peter Baigent, the Vice President of Student Affairs sent an e-mail to the entire university informing students, staff and faculty of the recent sexual assault of two female students.

According to Douglas Little, Assistant Chief of the Stony Brook Police Department, the two men allegedly involved with the assault are known to the police. Little commented, "Both the Suffolk County police and Stony Brook Police departments are working on the case together."

When asked about the safety of the campus community with respect to this recent incident, Little mentioned, "There is no threat to the campus community." However, upon further questioning, Little did continue on to say that the campus community should remain vigilant when considering these types of crimes.

Little reported, "Sexual assault is a very underreported crime." He continued, "The [two] women were very courageous, and the university has given them 100% support." Little was unable to provide any information about the location of the attack on campus because of possible violations of the privacy of the two female students.

Aside from this recent incident, students also have the ability to become involved with the pro-active measures set in place by the university to minimize the occurrence of such attacks.

The headline is the sales pitch for the story. It's purpose is to catch the reader's attention honestly and makes them want to keep reading.

It doesn't need to summarize the entire story, but it should convey the main point.

Is this headline adequately supported in this story? Point to specifics in the story.

Headline and Story...Do they match?

NEW YORK POST

Fort Hood shooter enraged at army over mom's funeral

April 3, 2014

By Bob Fredericks and Post Wires

Authorities on Thursday were still investigating why an Iraq War veteran shot and killed three people and wounded 16 others at Texas' Fort Hood before committing suicide — and have not ruled out terrorism.

“We’re going to keep an open mind. ... Possible extremist involvement is still being looked at very, very carefully,” Army Secretary John McHugh told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday.

Authorities said gunman Ivan Lopez, 34, enlisted in the Army in 2008 and served four months in Iraq but never saw combat and was not wounded in action, but was still being evaluated for post-traumatic stress disorder.

“We do not know a motive,” Lt. Gen. Mark Milley said. “We do know that this soldier had behavioral health and mental health issues, and was being treated for that.”

Lopez was a native of Puerto Rico who was married and had other relatives living near the Fort Hood area, where 13 people were murdered in 2009 in an attack by a soldier who had embraced radical Islam.

Lopez's mother Carmen Lopez died in Puerto Rico last year, and he was enraged at the Army for at first refusing to let him attend her services, a childhood pal told El Nuevo Dia, a Puerto Rican newspaper.

Military brass later relented and he was given a 24-hour pass to attend her funeral.

Lopez seemed fine in a conversation with the friend two days before the killings, the paper said — but did mention that he'd had a beef with someone at the sprawling base.

“It seems he had an argument with someone back at base. Seems that he had been robbed or something,” the pal told the paper.

Lopez was assigned to the 13th Sustainment Command at Fort Hood, a logistics and support unit.

The headline is the sales pitch for the story. Its purpose is to catch the reader's attention honestly and makes them want to keep reading. It doesn't need to summarize the entire story, but it should convey the main point.

Is this headline adequately supported in this story? Point to specifics in the story.

The “Delayed Lead” and Analyzing Journalistic Evidence

Link to the audio: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/21/nyregion/21immigrant.html>

An Agent, a Green Card, and a Demand for Sex

By NINA BERNSTEIN (New York Times)

No problems so far, the immigration agent told the American citizen and his 22-year-old Colombian wife at her green card interview in December. After he stapled one of their wedding photos to her application for legal permanent residency, he had just one more question: What was her cell phone number?

The calls from the agent started three days later. He hinted, she said, at his power to derail her life and deport her relatives, alluding to a brush she had with the law before her marriage. He summoned her to a private meeting. And at noon on Dec. 21, in a parked car on Queens Boulevard, he named his price — not realizing that she was recording everything on the cell phone in her purse.

“I want sex,” he said on the recording. “One or two times. That’s all. You get your green card. You won’t have to see me anymore.”

She reluctantly agreed to a future meeting. But when she tried to leave his car, he demanded oral sex “now,” to “know that you’re serious.” And despite her protests, she said, he got his way.

The 16-minute recording, which the woman first took to The New York Times and then to the Queens district attorney, suggests the vast power of low-level immigration law enforcers, and a growing desperation on the part of immigrants seeking legal status. The aftermath, which included the arrest of an immigration agent last week, underscores the difficulty and danger of making a complaint, even in the rare case when abuse of power may have been caught on tape.

No one knows how widespread sexual blackmail is, but the case echoes other instances of sexual coercion that have surfaced in recent years, including agents criminally charged in Atlanta, Miami and Santa Ana, Calif. And it raises broader questions about the system’s vulnerability to corruption at a time when millions of noncitizens live in a kind of legal no-man’s land, increasingly fearful of seeking the law’s protection.

In print journalism, the lead (pronounced “leed”) is usually the first sentence of the story. It can either summarize or entice, but it has to do so with precision and honesty. Sometimes, a news writer starts with some scene-setting or an anecdote. In that case, they quickly follow up with a “lead” that summarizes the facts and may put them in context.

-Find the lead and circle it.

-In this story, circle examples of direct and indirect evidence

-Find an example of context. Circle it.

-How close does the reporter come to opening the freezer? Explain

Opening the Freezer

4 dead, including shooter, at Fort Hood

By Dana Ford , CNN

updated 12:40 AM EDT, Thu April 3, 2014 CNN.com

(CNN) -- Authorities have identified the man who opened fire at Fort Hood in Texas on Wednesday, killing three people before committing suicide, as Specialist Ivan Lopez. Sixteen more people were injured Wednesday when he opened fire at Fort Hood, the sprawling Army post in Texas still on edge after a mass shooting there left 13 dead in 2009, officials said. The gunman also died. He was engaged by military police before he fatally shot himself in the head, said the Army post's commander, Lt. Gen. Mark A. Milley.

Earlier, Fort Hood's official Twitter feed asked that all personnel on post shelter in place. Sheriff's deputies from Bell County and state troopers assisted by securing the area around the post, according to Bell County Sheriff's Lt. Donnie Adams.

Authorities in the town of Killeen, just outside the gates, were also standing by to help. The lockdown was lifted just prior to 9 p.m. (10 p.m. ET), military personnel at the front gate told CNN.

The suspect, a soldier who had served in Iraq, "had behavioral health and mental health" issues, Milley told reporters late Wednesday. The general said there was no known motive for the shooting. "There is no indication that this incident is related to terrorism, although we are not ruling anything out," he said.

The initial report is the incident started as a soldier-on-soldier attack, law enforcement sources told CNN.

Scott & White Hospital in Temple, Texas, was treating eight patients with another expected to arrive shortly, said Dr. Glen Couchman, the chief medical officer. Three patients were in critical condition, while "the remaining are all seriously injured," he said.

Other patients were taken to Darnall Army Medical Center, not far from the Medical Brigade building where the shooting occurred, according a soldier who lives nearby and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The suspected shooter was wearing combat fatigues, said a U.S. official briefed on the shooting. He was armed with a .45-caliber Smith & Wesson handgun that he purchased recently, said Milley.

Circle examples of "Opening the Freezer" the reporter directly collecting/examining evidence she uses to tell this story. Put a square box around examples of evidence she collected without opening the freezer. (warning: it's a bit subtle.)

Opening the Freezer

Don't Drink the Water: West Virginia After the Chemical Spill

by HEATHER ROGERS for Rolling Stone Magazine

MARCH 12, 2014

Sharon Satterfield, a grandmother of six in Charleston, West Virginia, doesn't touch the water. "It's still not all right," she says, standing in her son's modest ranch-style house, almost two months after a toxic chemical spill shut down the drinking water supply of 300,000 residents in and around the state capitol — one of the largest incidents of drinking water contamination in U.S. history.

A one-gallon jug balances on the edge of the sink. The faucet, unused for weeks, is pushed to the side, away from the basin. The time is just past noon and Satterfield is warming a lunch for her three granddaughters, aged four, three and one. Before the two older girls sit down at their miniature table in the living room, Satterfield squirts antibacterial sanitizer into each pair of hands, making sure the girls rub it in. "This is how we do it now, no hand washing from the tap," she says.

Like thousands of families in the area, the Satterfields now live virtually without running water.

On January 9th, 10,000 gallons of a chemical called crude methylcyclohexane methanol, or MCHM, and a significantly smaller, although unknown, amount of propylene glycol phenyl ether, or PPH, gushed from a ruptured storage tank directly into the Elk River. Owned by a company called Freedom Industries, the storage facility sits about a mile upstream from the intake for a nine-county area's drinking water supply

At the time of the spill, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, a Democrat, issued a strict do-not-use order for tap water, which lasted in some areas for 10 days. A mere four days after the spill, on January 13th, Governor Tomblin and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began lifting the ban in phases, explaining that they had established guidelines on acceptable MCHM levels in the water, and that these had been met

Sharon Satterfield and her family, like many of the region's residents—who are not the type to be skittish about chemicals — don't believe official assurances that the water is clean.

*Circle any examples of the reporter opening the freezer.
How does this kind of evidence strengthen the report?*

Opening The Freezer



Bus Driver Caught on Camera Calling Student a 'Crybaby'
Texas School District Later Fired the Bus Driver

By GIO BENITEZ
April 3, 2014—

Texas officials fired a school bus driver after an on-board camera caught her calling a sobbing student “crybaby” and urging other children to chime in and mock the girl.

The video, first obtained by ABC News affiliate KSAT-TV in San Antonio, shows the bus driver from Floresville Elementary School in southern Texas berating the student.

“Ready?” she asked the students. “Cry ... cry ... cry ... I want my mama.”

The video was apparently recorded in late February or early March. Monna Perez, whose children ride the same bus, was horrified after seeing the footage.

“I think it’s horrible, especially if it’s my child crying?” Perez said. “If you can’t bully at school, why are they allowing it on the bus?”

Floresville Independent School District Superintendent Sherri Bays, who did not identify the driver, told ABC News that her behavior was unacceptable.

“I was very concerned with that, and it’s definitely not appropriate,” Bays said. “I think she’s acting very childish and immature.”

The school’s PTA is also disappointed, saying in a statement, “The video is of great concern to everyone who has watched it.”

The driver is no longer employed by the district, Bays told ABC News..

*Circle any examples of the reporter opening the freezer.
How does this kind of evidence strengthen the report?*

Evaluating Sources (note: “K Street” is DC jargon for lobbyists)

We have discussed three elements to look for when weighing an anonymous source. Based on your findings, how much weight do you give this anonymous source?

Big donors fear shakedown after decision

By: Anna Palmer and Tarini Parti

POLITICO.COM April 2, 2014 07:36 PM EDT

The biggest Washington donors used to have a great excuse to keep their wallets closed when fundraisers came knocking: Sorry, I’m maxed out.

But a Supreme Court ruling swiped that line from them Wednesday when the justices tossed a rule that limited how much an individual can give to candidates, party committees and PACs.

Federal law had capped the total amount a single donor could give at \$48,600 to candidate committees and \$74,600 in contributions to PACs and party committees in each two-year cycle.

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales				
Use this chart to evaluate each source.				
Sources: Kies, Podesta, “GOP Lobbyist” and “Fundraisers”				
Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Self-Interested
Explain:				
Multiple (Corroborated)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lone/Solitary
Explain:				
Verifies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asserts
Explain:				
Authoritative/Informed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unauthoritative/Uninformed
Explain:				
Named	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anonymous
Explain:				
Overall, how reliable is information from this source?				
Put an “X” in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Unreliable		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat Unreliable		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat Reliable		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Reliable		

Lobbyists are hit up for donations from campaign staff and members of Congress all the time. Now it could just get worse, they fear.

Fundraisers hope donors, many of them lobbyists, will embrace their new legal right with gusto to give more across the board to candidates and party committees.

“I’m horrified, planning to de-list my phone number and destroy my email address,” said Ken Kies, who, along with his wife, has bumped up against the federal political contribution limits. “What I was really hoping for is a ban on lobbyists making contributions entirely.”

“I’m poor again as a result,” joked Tony Podesta, a top lobbyist and major donor who is among the small number of K-Streeters who contribute nearly the maximum amount to candidates each election cycle. “The fundraising consultants are the only winner in today’s decision.”

“We were already getting drained before, now it’s another means to suck out more cash without any actual return on value,” said one GOP lobbyist.

Who or what is missing from this report? How does that impact its reliability?

Peer jury finds teen girls engage in 'vicious' cyberbullying

By Karen Ann Cullotta
Tribune reporter
12:26 PM CDT, April 3, 2014

While boys appear before the New Trier Township Peer Jury more than three times as often as girls, officials said recently that they are troubled by the severity of the cyberbullying crimes committed by teen girls.

Brian Leverenz, New Trier Township's community service administrator, said of the 35 teens who appeared before the township's peer jury in 2013, 27 were males and 8 were females.

Still, Leverenz said he was concerned that girls were often accused of cyberbullying offenses he described as among the peer jury's "worst cases."

"The boys' cases tend to be primarily criminal damage to property and drug and alcohol cases," Leverenz said. "But these cyberbullying cases involving the girls are particularly nasty."

"A boy might beat up another boy, and the next day, they're friends again," Leverenz added. "But the girls are committing psychological warfare against each other, and it's just vicious."

Since the township's peer jury was established in 1998, Leverenz said officials have seen an uptick in the number of teens pleading their cases each year, jumping from 12 teens the first year of the program to an all-time high of 57 teenagers in 2012.

Of the 35 teens whose cases were brought before the township's peer jury in 2013, Leverenz said, 14 lived in Winnetka, nine in Northfield, eight in Wilmette and four in Glencoe.

In all, 601 teens have appeared before the peer jury in the past 15 years, with most teens sentenced to complete community service hours at local organizations, Leverenz said, including the township's food pantry and local libraries and park districts.

Leverenz said a major benefit of the peer jury program is that first-time offenders who complete their required hours of community service often have no lasting juvenile record that can hinder them later in life, for example, when applying to colleges.

"We see teens who are straight-A students, who play three sports and are in the band," Leverenz. "But a juvenile record can mean their auto insurance goes up by 35 percent."

He said the jury has been a success in many ways, something he attributes in part to those on the jury itself.

"These high school kids who serve on the peer jury do an excellent job," Leverenz said. "And the community service hours required of the offenders have helped local organizations save the expense of having to hire extra staff."

Does the evidence support the conclusion?

Crime Blotter Has a Regular: Yankees Caps

By MANNY FERNANDEZ

Published: September 15, 2010

A curious phenomenon has emerged at the intersection of fashion, sports and crime: dozens of men and women who have robbed, beaten, stabbed and shot at their fellow New Yorkers have done so while wearing Yankees caps or clothing.

Yankees caps and clothing have dominated the crime blotter for so long, in so many parts of the city and in so many types of offenses, that it defies an easy explanation. Criminologists, sports marketing analysts, consumer psychologists and Yankees fans have developed their own theories, with some attributing the trend to the popularity of the caps among gangsta rappers and others wondering whether criminals are identifying with the team's aura of money, power and success.

Since 2000, more than 100 people who have been suspects or persons of interest in connection with serious crimes in New York City wore Yankees apparel at the time of the crimes or at the time of their arrest or arraignment. The tally is based on a review of New York Police Department news releases, surveillance video and images of robberies and other crimes, as well as police sketches and newspaper articles that described suspects' clothing. No other sports team comes close.

One criminologist said the trend might be a result of what could be called the Jay-Z effect.

The rapper Jay-Z has worn a Yankees cap for years — on his album covers and in his videos — and has helped turn the cap into a ubiquitous fashion accessory for urban youths (“I made the Yankee hat more famous than a Yankee can,” he boasts in one song).

It is but one of several theories. Sports marketing analysts say it is a matter of numbers: the Yankees sell more merchandise than any other baseball team. As of August, they hold a 25.13 percent market share of nationwide sales of merchandise licensed by Major League Baseball, with the Red Sox second at 7.96 percent and the Mets seventh at 5.32 percent, according to SportsOneSource, a firm that tracks the sporting goods industry.

For criminals outside New York, the team's caps and clothing are nearly as popular.

The man who robbed a Chase branch in a Chicago suburb in May wore a Yankees cap. In July, a young man in a Yankees cap assaulted an 81-year-old woman in her home, about 2,800 miles from Yankee Stadium, in Seattle.

“Why people pick the Yankees over the Mariners, I don't know,” said Detective Mark Jamieson, a Seattle police spokesman. “It just happened to be an article of clothing he was wearing on that particular day.”

Find an example of direct evidence and of indirect evidence and circle it. Evidence is always evidence of something. What are people saying the evidence in this story is evidence of? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Indirect Evidence and Drawing Conclusions

6 September 2013 Last updated at 12:04 ET



Remote control helicopter kills teenager in NYC park

A New York teenager has been killed when the toy remote control helicopter he was flying struck him in the head.

Roman Pirozek Jr, 19, was pronounced dead at a park in New York City's Brooklyn borough where hobbyists often fly remote control aircraft.

Police said reports suggested Pirozek was killed when the helicopter's blades struck his head and neck.

His death is thought to be only the second ever from a toy remote control helicopter in the US.

Police told the New York Daily News that Pirozek had apparently been attempting a stunt when something went wrong and the helicopter fell and hit him.

"The major vessels in his neck were involved and he just bled out very quickly," an emergency worker told the newspaper.

While police did not release the model of the helicopter Pirozek was flying at the time of the accident, an online video uploaded in July by someone with Pirozek's name showed an Align T-Rex 700N DFC flying at high speeds.

Rich Hanson, spokesman for the Academy of Model Aeronautics in Indiana told the Associated Press news agency that model was in the larger range of remote control helicopters and has a blade span of nearly 4.5ft (1.4m).

Mr Hanson said the teenager's death may have been only the second ever caused by a remote control helicopter in the US.

*Find an example of indirect evidence and circle it.
What can you conclude from the indirect evidence?*

Does the evidence support the conclusion?

Pulling all-nighters earns lower GPAs

By Michael Virtanen, Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Students who rely on all-nighters to bring up their grades might want to sleep on that strategy: A new survey says those who never study all night have slightly higher GPAs than those who do.

A survey of 120 students at St. Lawrence University, a small liberal arts college in northern New York, found that students who have never pulled an all-nighter have average GPAs of 3.1, compared to 2.9 for those who have.

The study, by assistant professor of psychology Pamela Thacher, is to be included in the January issue of [Behavioral Sleep Medicine](#).

"It's not a big difference, but it's pretty striking," Thacher said. "I am primarily a sleep researcher and I know nobody thinks clearly at 4 in the morning. You think you do, but you can't."

A second study by Thacher, a clinical psychologist, had "extremely similar" results showing lower grades among the sleep skippers. Many college students, of course, have inadequate or irregular sleep, for reasons ranging from excessive caffeine to poor time management.

Prav Chatani, a St. Lawrence sophomore who wasn't involved in either study, said the findings made sense.

The neuroscience major has been pulling fewer all-nighters, but recently stayed up until "around 4 or 5 in the morning" to prepare for an organic chemistry test and a neuroscience presentation, he said.

He found himself unable to remember some of the things he had studied.

"A lot of students were under the impression all-nighters were a very useful tool for accomplishing work, that caffeine intake was very useful in meeting deadlines and stuff like that," said Chatani, who had a 3.4 GPA last semester and doesn't expect to do too badly this semester, either. Dr. Howard Weiss, a physician at St. Peter's Sleep Center in Albany, said the study results make sense.

"Certainly that data is out there showing that short sleep duration absolutely interferes with concentration, interferes with performance on objective testing," he said.

What conclusions are made? Could one come to a different conclusion? Is there a problem in the reasoning?

Evaluating Sources



New York Tour Bus Crash Kills 14 in New York

Tour Bus Split in Half After Being Clipped by Truck

The death toll in a horrific bus accident on a New York highway has risen to 14.

Police Department spokesman Paul Browne says a passenger who had initially survived the wreck died at a hospital Saturday afternoon.

Authorities say there were about 32 people aboard the bus when it overturned on Interstate 95 as it returned from the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut.

As it toppled, the bus was sliced, end to end, by the support pole for a large sign.

The accident happened at about 5:30 a.m. on the New England Thruway at the Hutchinson River Parkway in the Bronx.

The bus was heading southbound when it flipped on its side. It then skidded into the support post for a large highway sign. The post sliced through the length of the bus at the passenger seat level, officials said.

New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said the bus was moving at "a significant rate of speed," according to ABC station WABC-TV in New York.

Shamel Bookard and Ashanti Jackson, friends of Oferdel Williams, the driver of the bus, described him as the kind of person who is likely overwhelmed with sadness at what happened.

"I'm sure he's greatly sorry for what did happen," Jackson told WABC-TV.

They said Williams is known for his courage.

"Years ago he ran into a burning building and saved a family, there was a girl, a grandmother in a wheelchair, he brought them out the fire," Bookard told WABC-TV.

"Our -- and the entire city's -- prayers, thoughts and sympathies are with the victims, and their families and loved ones," said New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg in a statement.

What is asserted?

What kind of evidence is used to verify the death toll?

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Paul Browne, Raymond Kelly, Ashanti Jackson, Shamel Bookard using the IM'VAIN worksheet.

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Paul Browne*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Raymond Kelly*

Independent				Self-Interested
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Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)				Lone/Solitary
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Explain:

Verifies				Asserts
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Explain:

Authoritative/Informed				Unauthoritative/Uninformed
-------------------------------	--	--	--	-----------------------------------

Explain:

Named				Anonymous
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Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.		Very Unreliable
		Somewhat Unreliable
		Somewhat Reliable
		Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Ashanti Jackson*

Independent				
--------------------	--	--	--	--

				Self-Interested
--	--	--	--	------------------------

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)				
--------------------------------	--	--	--	--

				Lone/Solitary
--	--	--	--	----------------------

Explain:

Verifies				
-----------------	--	--	--	--

				Asserts
--	--	--	--	----------------

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed				
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--

				Unauthoritative/Uninformed
--	--	--	--	-----------------------------------

Explain:

Named				
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				Anonymous
--	--	--	--	------------------

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.		Very Unreliable
		Somewhat Unreliable
		Somewhat Reliable
		Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Shamel Bookard*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

What can you conclude about the legality of the program?

U.S. secretly built 'Cuban Twitter' to stir unrest

By: Associated Press

April 3, 2014 05:47 AM EDT

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government masterminded the creation of a "Cuban Twitter" — a communications network designed to undermine the communist government in Cuba, built with secret shell companies and financed through foreign banks, The Associated Press has learned.

The project, which lasted more than two years and drew tens of thousands of subscribers, sought to evade Cuba's stranglehold on the Internet with a primitive social media platform.

First, the network would build a Cuban audience, mostly young people; then, the plan was to push them toward dissent.

Yet its users were neither aware it was created by a U.S. agency with ties to the State Department, nor that American contractors were gathering personal data about them, in the hope that the information might be used someday for political purposes.

The AP obtained more than 1,000 pages of documents about the project's development. It independently verified the project's scope and details in the documents through publicly available databases, government sources and interviews with those involved in ZunZuneo.

It is unclear whether the scheme was legal under U.S. law, which requires written authorization of covert action by the president and congressional notification. Officials at USAID would not say who had approved the program or whether the White House was aware of it. The Cuban government declined a request for comment.

At minimum, details uncovered by the AP appear to muddy the U.S. Agency for International Development's longstanding claims that it does not conduct covert actions, and could undermine the agency's mission to deliver aid to the world's poor and vulnerable — an effort that requires the trust and cooperation of foreign governments.

USAID said in a statement that it is "proud of its work in Cuba to provide basic humanitarian assistance, promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to help information flow more freely to the Cuban people," whom it said "have lived under an authoritarian regime" for 50 years. The agency said its work was found to be "consistent with U.S. law."

USAID and its contractors went to extensive lengths to conceal Washington's ties to the project, according to interviews and documents obtained by the AP. They set up front companies in Spain and the Cayman Islands to hide the money trail, and recruited CEOs without telling them they would be working on a U.S. taxpayer-funded project.

"There will be absolutely no mention of United States government involvement," according to a 2010 memo from Mobile Accord Inc., one of the project's creators. "This is absolutely crucial for the long-term success of the service and to ensure the success of the Mission."

The project, dubbed "ZunZuneo," slang for a Cuban hummingbird's tweet, was publicly launched shortly after the 2009 arrest in Cuba of American contractor Alan Gross. He was imprisoned after traveling repeatedly to the country on a separate, clandestine USAID mission to expand Internet access using sensitive technology that only governments use.

ZunZuneo would seem to be a throwback from Cold War, and the decades-long struggle between the United States and Cuba. It came at a time when the historically sour relationship between the countries had improved, at least marginally, and Cuba had made tentative steps toward a more market-based economy.

The social media project began development in 2009 after Washington-based Creative Associates International obtained a half-million Cuban cellphone numbers. It was unclear to the AP how the numbers were obtained, although documents indicate they were done so illicitly from a key source inside the country's state-run provider. Project organizers used those numbers to start a subscriber base.

ZunZuneo's organizers wanted the social network to grow slowly to avoid detection by the Cuban government. Eventually, documents and interviews reveal, they hoped the network would reach critical mass so that dissidents could organize "smart mobs" — mass gatherings called at a moment's notice — that could trigger political demonstrations, or "renegotiate the balance of power between the state and society."

The Cuban government has a tight grip on information, and the country's leaders view the Internet as a "wild colt" that "should be tamed." ZunZuneo's leaders planned to push Cuba "out of a stalemate through tactical and temporary initiatives, and get the transition process going again toward democratic change."

At a 2011 speech at George Washington University, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the U.S. helps people in "oppressive Internet environments get around filters." Noting Tunisia's role in the Arab Spring, she said people used technology to help "fuel a movement that led to revolutionary change."

Suzanne Hall, then a State Department official working on Clinton's social media efforts, helped spearhead an attempt to get Twitter founder Jack Dorsey to take over the ZunZuneo project. Dorsey declined to comment.

The estimated \$1.6 million spent on ZunZuneo was publicly earmarked for an unspecified project in Pakistan, public government data show, but those documents don't reveal where the funds were actually spent.

ZunZuneo's organizers worked hard to create a network that looked like a legitimate business, including the creation of a companion website — and marketing campaign — so users could subscribe and send their own text messages to groups of their choice.

"Mock ad banners will give it the appearance of a commercial enterprise," one written proposal obtained by the AP said. Behind the scenes, ZunZuneo's computers were also storing and analyzing subscribers' messages and other demographic information, including gender, age, "receptiveness" and "political tendencies." USAID believed the demographics on dissent could help it target its other Cuba programs and "maximize our possibilities to extend our reach."

"It was such a marvelous thing," said Ernesto Guerra, a Cuban user who never suspected his beloved network had ties to Washington.

"How was I supposed to realize that?" Guerra asked in an interview in Havana. "It's not like there was a sign saying, 'Welcome to ZunZuneo, brought to you by USAID.'"

Executives set up a corporation in Spain and an operating company in the Cayman Islands — a well-known British offshore tax haven — to pay the company's bills so the "money trail will not trace back to America," a strategy memo said. That would have been a catastrophic blow, they concluded, because it would undermine the service's credibility with subscribers and get shut down by the Cuban government.

Denver-based Mobile Accord considered at least a dozen candidates to head the European front company. One candidate, Francoise de Valera, told the AP she was told nothing about Cuba or U.S. involvement.

James Eberhard, Mobile Accord's CEO and a key player in the project's development, declined to comment. Creative Associates referred questions to USAID.

For more than two years, ZunZuneo grew and reached at least 40,000 subscribers. But documents reveal the team found evidence Cuban officials tried to trace the text messages and break into the ZunZuneo system. USAID told the AP that ZunZuneo stopped in September 2012 when a government grant ended.

ZunZuneo vanished abruptly in 2012, and the Communist Party remains in power — with no Cuban Spring on the horizon.

"The moment when ZunZuneo disappeared, (it) was like a vacuum," said Guerra, the ZunZuneo user. "In the end, we never learned what happened. We never learned where it came from."

Is this report fair, balanced or biased?

Identify an example of direct evidence.

How close does this reporter come to opening the freezer?

Context and Transparency

Teen rape trial shines unwelcome spotlight on Ohio town, football team

By Chelsea J. Carter, CNN

updated 10:27 PM EDT, Tue March 12, 2013

Two 16-year-old teens, Trent Mays and Ma'lik Richmond, are charged with rape. The boys are accused of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl at end-of-summer parties. Portions of the alleged assaults were chronicled on social media by partygoers.

(CNN) -- With the two boys at the center of the case set to go to trial on rape charges on Wednesday, an unwelcome national spotlight is shining on Steubenville, Ohio.

Photos, video and social media messages are at the heart of criminal charges against the two players -- Trent Mays and Ma'lik Richmond, both juveniles -- accused of sexually assaulting the girl during a series of end-of-summer parties in August.

Both boys have been identified by a judge in court, by defense attorneys and in newspapers and other media reports.

CNN is not identifying the girl, who also is a juvenile, in accordance with its policy not to release the names of alleged rape victims.

Text messages posted to social networking sites that night seemed to brag about the incident, calling the girl "sloppy," making references to rape and suggesting that she had been urinated on, Goddard has said. CNN has not been able to establish whether this is true.

In one 12-minute video, posted by Anonymous, one teenager makes multiple jokes about the girl's condition, saying she must have died because she didn't move during one assault.

Steubenville was once a thriving steel mill town. With the mills closed, the town is a shadow of its former self as a number of its residents moved away to find work elsewhere and a number of businesses closed.

Today, its population is primarily blue collar with a median income between \$33,000 and \$34,000, well below the national average.

*Circle any examples of context or transparency that you discover.
How do they enable you to make sense of the information in this report?*

Context

Obama's quarterly approval rating drops to 44.5%



David Jackson, USA TODAY 10:06 a.m. EDT October 21, 2013

President Obama's job approval rating for the past three months averaged 44.5%, a drop of more than three percentage points from the previous quarter, Gallup reports.

It's not the low point for Obama — he hit 41% in the third quarter of 2011 — but it's not a great trend either.

"After a relatively strong fourth year that included several quarters of higher ratings that aided his (2012) re-election, his approval rating has now declined in each of the last three quarters," Gallup reports.

Obama's 44.5% approval rating for the third quarter of 2013 -- running from July 20 to Oct. 19 — put him in the middle of the pack for recent presidents, Gallup notes:

"Three post-World War II presidents — Ronald Reagan, Dwight Eisenhower, and Bill Clinton — had significantly higher 19th quarter averages, all near 60%, than Obama.

"Two presidents had lower 19th quarter averages than Obama: Richard Nixon, whose 19th quarter came during the Watergate investigations, and Lyndon Johnson, attributable mostly to the increasingly unpopular Vietnam War.

"Obama's 19th quarter approval average is most similar to those of Harry Truman and George W. Bush."

Gallup also reports on Obama:

"The legislative battles over the federal budget and the Affordable Care Act, as well as the federal debt limit, took a toll on the president's popularity, with his Gallup daily approval rating falling to 41% at points during the shutdown.

"Obama did sign into law the Senate-brokered deal to end the government shutdown and raise the federal debt limit before the Oct. 17 deadline without also gutting the Affordable Care Act. The effect of those events on his popular support is not yet clear, but will be evident in the coming days of Gallup Daily tracking."

Circle any examples of context that you discover.

How do they enable you to make sense of the information in this report?

Analyzing Journalistic Evidence, Evaluating Sources



NYDailyNews.com

DAILY NEWS Gillibrand on short list for 2016 presidential contenders

By KENNETH LOVETT Sunday, October 14, 2012

ALBANY — She doesn't get the same buzz as fellow New Yorkers Hillary Clinton and Gov. Cuomo, but Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand suddenly has turned up on the short list of potential presidential candidates from New York.

She set tongues wagging about her future at last month's Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., with an address to delegates from Iowa, an early proving ground in every presidential race.

Gillibrand also has been quietly helping Democratic candidates across America by raising money for them and donating to their campaigns through two political action committees she created.

Taken together, the moves are raising her profile nationally — and generating IOUs that she could cash in to support her own political ambitions one day.

But just what are those ambitions?

National and state Democrats acknowledge murmurs that Gillibrand might be interested in a 2016 presidential run — though many note she wouldn't even be the first choice in her own state, where insiders obsess about the potential candidacies of Clinton and Cuomo.

"I've heard her name come up from time to time," said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia.

"But I think she's dead third on a list of Democratic New Yorkers for a presidential nomination. If the other two don't run, maybe that's how she gets her shot."

At a minimum, Gillibrand's higher profile and expanded influence could make her a more powerful player in the Senate.

Gillibrand insists she will not run for President in 2016 and hopes Clinton gets in the race. She has vowed to serve her full six-year term if she beats heavy underdog GOP challenger Wendy Long next month.

Gillibrand was a telegenic but little-known congresswoman from upstate when she was picked by then-Gov. David Paterson to fill the seat left vacant when Clinton — one of her mentors — resigned to become secretary of state.

Find an example of direct evidence and circle it.

Find any conclusions drawn by sources and circle. Are the conclusions properly supported by the evidence?

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Larry Sabato using the IM'VAIN worksheet.

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Larry Sabato*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Sourcing and Context

Pregnant man is expecting baby in July

March 27, 2008

The ADVOCATE Magazine



By COMBINED NEWS SERVICE

An Oregon transgendered man who used to be a woman says he is five-months pregnant.

Thomas Beatie, who's expecting a girl, tells his story in a first-person account published in "The Advocate" magazine.

Beatie is legally a male and lives with his wife, Nancy. He claims to have stopped taking his testosterone injections to get pregnant, and that conception was achieved through home insemination.

"Sterilization is not a requirement for sex reassignment, so I decided to have chest reconstruction and testosterone therapy but kept my reproductive rights," he writes in the article for the gay and lesbian magazine. "How does it feel to be a pregnant man? Incredible," he adds. "Despite the fact that my belly is growing with a new life inside me, I am stable and confident being the man that I am."

Beatie is expected to give birth in July.

How many sources are used?

Are they reliable? Why or why not?

Does the reporter place the story in context?

What is missing from this story?

Key Questions



The New York Times

She's been found!

The Egyptian cobra at the Bronx Zoo that had been missing for seven days has been located, officials said on Thursday.

The cobra is "alive and well," James J. Breheny, the zoo's director, told dozens of reporters who had gathered for a 4 p.m. news conference at the zoo. The adolescent snake was found inside a non-public area of the zoo's Reptile House, and was in "really good condition," he said.

Mr. Breheny said the snake, which is 24 inches long, weighs about 3 ounces, and is

believed to be several months old, would rest for a short period of time before being put back on exhibit. She was found coiled in a secluded dark corner — "almost exactly as we would have predicted," Mr. Breheny said — and was caught at 9 a.m. using tongs and a piece of equipment he compared to a golf club. He said the snake avoided detection because it was lurking in an area with an "extremely complicated" system of equipment and a "labyrinth of pipes."

Since her escape, the cobra had inspired feverish news coverage and a wildly popular fake Twitter feed.

Robert Stolarik for The New York Times James J. Breheny, Director of the Bronx Zoo, announced at a news conference that the cobra had been found early Thursday morning.

Mr. Breheny said the zoo had appreciated the media attention but "didn't want to get distracted by all of the light-heartedness" amid what was ultimately "a serious situation."

Asked what sort of danger the snake would have posed, Mr. Breheny said that snakes in general are "shy, secretive creatures," whose venom is "not primarily a defense mechanism. It's a way to procure food."

Zoo officials said the Reptile House would remain closed for several days while they investigated how the snake escaped and monitored the escapee. Mr. Breheny said at the news conference that officials had not yet changed any protocol but "have double-checked existing protocol and have people double-checking each other." Last Friday, when the snake went missing, it was not in the exhibit itself but in an off-exhibit holding cage.

Since then, staff members at the Wildlife Conservation Society, which operates the zoo, had conducted sweeping searches.

News of the Egyptian cobra's capture reverberated in the Twittersphere, where it quickly became a trending topic, and many said they would miss the frequent updates from @BronxZoosCobra — who has remained silent since the capture.

Despite her newfound fame, the snake has no official name. But that may change. Said Mr. Breheny: "Maybe we'll do some sort of naming contest."

Are the key questions answered? What are they and what are the answers?

Assertions, Fairness and Context



Chances Are 'Pink Slime' Is In Grocery Store Beef, Too

options to order beef that does not include these trimmings, and the publicity over the online petition initiated by The Lunch Tray blogger Bettina Siegel, which quickly drew more than 200,000 signatures, it's clear that there's a lot of disgust over the concept of pink slime. And with a name like this, how could there not be?

But Schaffner says the suggestion of an ooey, gooey liquid is deceiving. Lost in the social-media outrage, he says, is the understanding that lean beef trimmings are a way of taking fatty bits of meat and extracting the lean part.

"What the process does is take the mostly fat trimmings and heat them up so the fat becomes a liquid," explains Schaffner, "and then uses a process to separate the lean portion from the fat portion."

The safety concerns stem from reports that the lean beef trimmings are likely to harbor pathogens, such as E. coli or Salmonella and other bacteria. And Schaffner, who has worked as a consultant to the meat industry, says this is true. "The bacteria risk comes from the fact that these are pieces that are being cut away from the outside of the meat, and that's where the bacteria are likely to be."

The industry recognizes this, and has adopted a practice of treating the meat trimmings with a gas made of ammonium hydroxide. This kills the pathogen, but according to critics, even if it solves one problem, it creates another. They say using ammonium hydroxide is gross, and they worry about its safety. The American Meat Institute defends the practice. "This is not the same ammonia you'd use in cleaning supplies," explains Betsy Booren of the AMI Foundation. "It's a gas, it's a different compound, and it's a well-established processing intervention that has a long history of success."

List the assertions you find.

Is the story fair to meat producers? To the evidence? Explain.

What example(s) of context do you find?

Deconstruct This Story (See Last Page of Workbook)

Profiling Complaints by Black Shoppers Followed Changes to Stores' Security Policies

By J. DAVID GOODMAN

Published: October 29, 2013

Several months ago, a meeting was convened at Barneys New York to discuss a growing problem: A significant amount of inventory was being lost to theft. Something had to be done.

A new security management team instituted a more aggressive loss prevention strategy. Security personnel said they were encouraged to "take chances" in stopping suspicious customers, even if it meant intercepting innocent people. Bad grabs, they said they were told, were part of the business.

The number of contacts with the Police Department, made when security workers suspected a person had been shoplifting or engaging in credit card fraud, soon jumped drastically.

But along with the increase in cases, complaints began to surface from black shoppers who said they were victims of racial profiling in the store, on Madison Avenue. At least one shopper has filed a lawsuit against Barneys, and another plans to.

The lawsuits, which came to light last week and landed on the front page of The Daily News, attracted national attention for their allegations of race- and class-based discrimination. The suits raised criticism not only of Barneys, but of celebrity figures, like Jay-Z, who has a partnership with the store. They have also led to an inquiry by the state attorney general, Eric T. Schneiderman, and on Tuesday there was an unlikely meeting of the Rev. Al Sharpton and the Barneys chief executive, Mark Lee.

Across town, at the flagship Macy's store at Herald Square, at least two black shoppers, one of them the actor Robert Brown, of the HBO series "Treme," have said they were similarly stopped this year by the police after, they said, store security workers deemed their purchases suspicious. Mr. Schneiderman's inquiry also includes Macy's.

None of those who have come forward to say they were detained by the police were charged with any crime.

The accusations were particularly troublesome for Macy's, which, in 2005, reached an agreement with the state attorney general's office to amend its security practices after investigators found black and Hispanic shoppers were disproportionately stopped on suspicion of shoplifting. That agreement ended in 2008. This year, said an official familiar with the current investigation who was not permitted to comment publicly on its details, the state attorney general has received close to a dozen complaints from shoppers who said they had been profiled by security officers at Macy's.

In the case of Barneys, the official said, the state attorney general is investigating allegations of similar treatment in cases besides the two shoppers pursuing litigation.

"It has come to our office's attention that there are problems with what is now called 'shop and frisk' with some major stores in New York," Mr. Schneiderman said at a news conference in Buffalo on Tuesday.

Mr. Schneiderman said the investigation would look at the policies in the stores as well as the relationship between store security officers and the New York Police Department. Both Macy's and Barneys have denied involvement in the episodes of detention of shoppers that have come to light.

"In both of these instances, no one from Barneys New York raised any issue with these purchases," Mr. Lee said on Tuesday, after emerging from his meeting with Mr. Sharpton in Harlem. "No one from Barneys brought them to the attention of our internal security, and no one from Barneys reached out to external authorities."

The Police Department disputed that account. In both cases, "N.Y.P.D. officers were conducting unrelated investigations and took action based on information brought to their attention by Barneys employees while in the security room," said John J. McCarthy, the department's chief spokesman.

At the center of the dispute at Barneys are two young black shoppers: Trayon Christian, 19, who has filed suit against the store and the city in State Supreme Court; and Kayla Phillips, 21, who filed a notice of intent to sue.

In his suit, Mr. Christian said the trouble occurred on April 29 after he bought a Salvatore Ferragamo belt with his Chase debit card. Several blocks away on Fifth Avenue, he said, he was stopped by plainclothes police officers.

The officers questioned his ability to pay for the belt, valued at about \$350, and said the debit card must have been a fake, according to the suit. Mr. Christian was handcuffed and taken to the 19th Precinct station house where he was held, according to the suit, for about two hours before being freed.

Ms. Phillips described being “stopped, frisked, searched and detained” by the police at the store after a purchase at Barneys of a handbag valued at over \$2,000.

Both stops, as well as two more related to shoppers at Macy’s, were being investigated by the Police Department’s Internal Affairs Bureau, Mr. McCarthy said.

The security changes Barneys put into effect were detailed by Raymel Cardona, a former assistant manager for loss prevention at the store, and a former plainclothes security guard, Aaron Argueta, 36. Both men were fired from Barneys, and intend to challenge their dismissals with federal employment authorities, said their lawyer, J. Patrick DeLince.

Aspects of their accounts were supported by Nafeesa Baptiste, a former sales associate of five years, who said she had increasingly found herself and her black customers — some of them well-known musicians and actors — followed by plainclothes security guards “from floor to floor.”

She added that security agents frequently sought copies of receipts, in one case after a substantial cash transaction. “Because I had mostly men of color, it happened often to me,” said Ms. Baptiste, 35.

She quit Barneys last month and has reported workplace harassment to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Representatives of Barneys strongly disputed the accounts of the former workers. Charlotte Blechman, the executive vice president for communications, described the two men as “disgruntled former employees,” and singled out Mr. Argueta for installing a “bed and workout barbell in a company closet and sleeping on the job in the store multiple times.” Mr. Cardona, his supervisor, was also “fired for cause,” she said.

Deconstruct this story by answering the questions in the Deconstruction Guide

Deconstruct This Story (See Last Page of Workbook)**College Costs Keep Rising, Report Says**

By TAMAR LEWIN

The New York Times

The price of a college education rose substantially last year, despite a 2.1 percent decline in the Consumer Price Index from July 2008 to July 2009.

Hit hard by state budget cuts, four-year public colleges raised tuition and fees by an average of 6.5 percent last year. Prices at private colleges rose 4.4 percent, according to a report issued Tuesday by the College Board.

Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, called the increases “hugely disappointing.”

“Given the financial hardship of the country, it’s simply astonishing that colleges and universities would have this kind of increases,” Mr. Callan said. “It tells you that higher education is still a seller’s market. The level of debt we’re asking people to undertake is unsustainable.

“A lot of people think we can solve the problem with more financial aid, but I think we have to have some cost containment. For all the talk about reinventing higher education, I don’t see any results.”

With room and board, the average total cost of attendance at a public four-year college is now \$15,213, the report found. At private nonprofit colleges, which enroll about one in five college students nationally, the average total cost of attendance is now \$35,636.

Over the last 30 years, college costs have risen steadily, especially at four-year public universities, once considered the affordable route to higher education. At such universities, the last decade’s increases, adjusted for inflation, have been the steepest.

At private universities and public two-year institutions, the rate of increase has slowed over the last decade. The 4.4 percent rise in tuition at private colleges last year, for example, was smaller than in past years, when it has been about 6 percent.

In releasing the figures, the College Board, a membership organization made up of schools, colleges, universities and education organizations, put a bright face on the issue. Sandy Baum, the senior policy analyst who wrote the report, “Trends in College Pricing 2009,” said the findings were not as bad as they might have been, since in times of recession, tuition increases are often “really, really steep.”

Ms. Baum emphasized that it was important for families to understand that only about a third of students pay the published tuition, or sticker price. Most pay a lower net cost because they get some kind of assistance, whether in the form of a scholarship from the university, a federal Pell grant or state aid.

Nonetheless, Ms. Baum acknowledged that over time, the costs trends at four-year public universities have been troubling.

“From 1979 to 1989, the annual rate adjusted for inflation was 3 percent,” she said, “the next decade was 4 percent, and the most recent decade 5 percent. So the trend was exacerbated in recent years.”

Public universities have been forced to raise tuition largely because state governments, facing huge budget shortfalls, have reduced spending on higher education. But many education experts said colleges must do a better job of cutting costs.

“Colleges need to be looking for ways to permanently restructure, not just cut their budgets,” said Jane Wellman, executive director of the Delta Project on Postsecondary Costs, Productivity

and Accountability. “A perfect example is furloughs, in hopes that eventually the work force can come back. But this isn’t a one-time problem, and eventually they’ll have to bite the bullet and reduce their work force.”

About two-thirds of full-time undergraduates receive grants, according to “Trends in Student Aid 2009,” a companion College Board report by Ms. Baum that was also released Tuesday. And grant aid, especially Pell grants, has been growing.

Taking into account both grant aid and tax credits and deductions, Ms. Baum said, the situation looks far less dire.

“The really interesting thing to me,” she said, “is if you look at net prices students pay, considering the grant aid and tax benefits, students at public two-year institutions are actually paying less, in inflation-adjusted dollars. And that’s pretty significant. Even though the sticker price, adjusting for inflation, is up 20 percent in the past five years, the net price is actually lower than it was five years ago.”

But with college costs so high, borrowing is increasing as well. Although grant aid rose significantly in the 2008-9 school year, the latest year for which data are available, student borrowing — and the gap between available resources and the overall cost of attending college — continued to increase, the report said.

The borrowing has changed, though, with a significant shift away from private loans as the credit markets froze and federal loans expanded. According to the new report, total education borrowing increased 5 percent from 2007-8 to 2008-9, the report said, but private loans declined by about half last year, to about \$11 billion, while federal loans increased by about \$15 billion.

Last year, the average grant aid per student was \$5,041, with the largest amounts coming from colleges and universities and the federal government.

At public four-year colleges, the report found, two-thirds of the grant money is given as merit aid, that is, without considering the recipient’s financial need.

“It is particularly disturbing that public colleges are using such a large share of their financial aid resources for so-called merit aid in these tough times,” said Lauren Asher, president of the Institute for College Access and Success.

This year, the report found, full-time students at private, nonprofit four-year institutions — those with the most expensive tuition — are receiving about \$14,400 in grant aid and federal tax benefits, reducing their net tuition and fees to about \$11,900, from the published \$26,300.

Full-time students at public four-year colleges and universities receive an estimated average of about \$5,400 in grant aid and federal tax benefits, reducing their net tuition and fees to about \$1,600, from the published \$7,000.

And full-time students at public two-year colleges actually get an average \$3,000 in grant aid and tax benefits — enough to pay the average \$2,500 tuition and fees and still have \$500 left toward living expenses.

Deconstruct this story by answering the questions in the Deconstruction Guide

The Deconstruction Method

1. Summarize the main points and then check: Does the headline and the lead support the main point(s) of the story?
2. How close does the reporter come to opening the freezer? Is the evidence direct or “arm’s-length?”
3. Evaluate the reliability of the sources using **I’M VA/IN**:
 - ✓ **I**ndependent sources are better than self-interested sources.
 - ✓ **M**ultiple sources are better than a single source.
 - ✓ Sources who **V**erify are better than sources who assert: “I know” vs. “I believe”
 - ✓ **A**uthoritative/**I**nformed sources are better than uninformed sources.
 - ✓ **N**amed sources are better than unnamed sources
4. Does the reporter make his or her work transparent?
5. Does the reporter place the story in context?
6. Are the key questions answered?
7. Is the story fair?