

Last week's Quick Quiz results

1. "Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets," said Napoleon Bonaparte, military genius and Emperor of France.
2. On September 29, 1690, British Colonial authorities in Boston shut down the first multi-page newspaper in the Americas, which was called "Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick."

Student Questions and Comments:

The Quick Quiz

- 1.
- 2.
3. Write a question we can answer to clarify today's lesson...or a comment that will help us improve our work.

Write your name and Recitation Instructor name on your Quiz

Hand your QUICK QUIZ to your recitation instructor as you leave, and practice saying her or his name. (i.e. "Hi, Professor Schmedlapp")

Lecturer Alerts

This lecture is intended to be continued in a subsequent class section. The atmosphere envisioned is a seminar, with students (having read the examples ahead of time) working their way through Workbook examples with their teacher. The point is to begin developing their ability to deconstruct in real time.

'Deconstructing' the news

Is Too Much Texting A Mental Illness?



How to assess the reliability of the news

Texting.wmv

Deconstruction: *"Application of News Literacy concepts to the analysis of component parts of a news report in order to dispassionately judge its reliability."*



Deconstructing to judge reliability

Deconstruction

Step 1: Summarize the main points, comparing headline to lead

Deconstruction

Step 2: Did the reporter open the freezer? Is the evidence direct or indirect?

Deconstruction

Step 3: Evaluate the sources, using **IMVA/IN**

Deconstruction

Step 4: Does the reporter make his/her work transparent?

Deconstruction

Step 5: Does the reporter place the facts, the story, in context?

Deconstruction

Step 6: Are the key questions answered? (Who-What-When-Where-Why-How)

Deconstruction

Step 7: Is the story fair or balanced? Which should it be? What about fair play and fair language?

Deconstructing to judge reliability

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Step 3: Evaluate the sources, using **IMVA/IN**

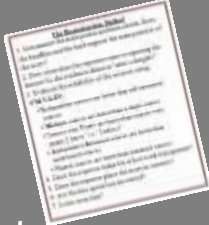
Step 4: Does the reporter make his/her work transparent?

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Step 6: Are the key questions answered? (Who-What-When-Where-Why-How)

Step 7: Is the story fair or balanced? Which should it be? What about fair play and fair language?

And The Whole Point Is....



What can a news consumer
Do with this information
Is it actionable?



Housekeeping, Announcements & Notes

Last week's Quick Quiz

- #1. CBS is an **OUTLET**, not a **SOURCE**.
- #2. The "M" in **IMVA/IN** stands for **MULTIPLE**. **AS IN MULTIPLE SOURCES ARE BETTER THAN A SINGLE SOURCE. THINK CORROBORATION, NOT MAJORITY RULE.**

Your questions and comments ...

Reminder: Bring Deconstruction Workbook to Recitation, too



Print it.

Read it.

Bring it

After this lecture, students will be able to:

1. Begin to apply key lessons of News Literacy in real time to find or identify reliable information.
2. Use the IMVAIN test of source reliability on the fly.
3. Distinguish, on the fly, between direct and indirect evidence and even spot-check if conclusions are logical or not.
4. Begin to correctly use the terms "Transparency" and "Context" to judge the professionalism of news reporting.
5. Use the Deconstruction Workbook as a means to rehearse detailed and sophisticated judgment of news reports.

These are the capstone skills of this course, encompassing all 6 outcomes promised by the syllabus.

Countdown To Test #2

Held in Recitation, WEEK OF NOV. 17

Emphasizes Lectures 7-11, (Fairness & Bias through Deconstructing TV News)


Same format: 10 questions, 100 points possible.



Context & Transparency Two Ideas Students Struggle With



Key Definitions

Main Entry: **con-text** 

Pronunciation: \ˈkən-ˌtɛkst\

Function: *noun*

Context: Facts that surround an event or elements of a news story and provide meaning or significance

Deconstructing the News

The power of Context

However, behind the image of two-year-old Jirgedan lies a tale not of intentional cruelty but, it seems, one of misplaced love and fear: his sister disappeared from the same spot just two weeks ago.

"I was afraid I would lose him too," their father, Chen Chuanlu, said today.



Context

The New York Times


Education

As College Fees Climb, Aid Does Too

BY HENRI LUYK

When you look at how much students are actually paying, on average, it is lower, after adjusting for inflation, than five years earlier."

Key Definitions

Main Entry: **trans-par-en-cy** 
 Pronunciation: 'tran(t)s-'per-an(t)-se'
 Function: *noun*
 Inflected Form(s): *plural trans-par-en-cies*
 Date: 1591

Transparency: The reporter specifies in the story what he or she *does not* know, and why it could not be learned; how they know what they do know; when the reporter pulls the curtain aside.


TRANSPARENCY



A Source Who
Saw Her Boss
And Fears
Retribution

TRANSPARENCY

*"...lax oversight of the district's credit card, (was) among a series of financial irregularities **outlined in a critical audit** of the Wilton-Lyndeborough School District."*



Deconstructing the News


Transparency is Openness about Methods



- "Could not be reached"
- "Requested anonymity because she feared losing her job"
- "A reporter attempted to contact the family at home, but no one came to the door."
- "The information could not be independently verified."

Deconstruction
Step 1: Summarize the main points, comparing headline to lead

Deconstruction



1) Summarize the main points of the story

Deconstruction
Step 1: Summarize the main points, comparing headline to lead

Deconstructing the News

How Reliable is the Headline?

Black Panther hails ax attack on cops



The Black Panther who attacked cops in a...
"I probably won't be the one..."
"I don't believe in..."

Is the Headline Supported By the Story?

Deconstruction
 Step 1: Summarize the main points, comparing headline to lead

Assaults Plague Campus
 an e-mail to the entire university informing students, staff and faculty of the recent sexual assault of two female students.

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 responded, "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 pre-active measures set in place by the university to minimize the occurrence of such attacks.

Is the Headline Supported By the Story?

Deconstruction
 Step 2: Did the reporter open the freezer? Is the evidence direct or indirect?

Assess the evidence supporting the main points of the story.




Deconstruction
 Step 2: Did the reporter open the freezer? Is the evidence direct or indirect?

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

Money, not sex, is the more common currency of corruption in immigration, but according to Congressional testimony in 2006 by Michael Marwell, former director of the agency's internal investigations, more than 3,000 backlogged complaints of employee misconduct had gone uninvestigated for lack of staff, including 528 involving criminal allegations.

Evidence: Did the reporter open the freezer?

Deconstruction
 Step 2: Did the reporter open the freezer? Is the evidence direct or indirect?



How close did the reporter come to opening the freezer? If not, did a reliable source open it?

Deconstruction
Step 2. Did the reporter open the freezer? Is the evidence direct or indirect?

Searching for the next Ebola in the Congo Basin

A hand is shown holding a small, dark, cylindrical object, possibly a sample container, over a surface. The person is wearing a pink protective suit and a mask. The background shows other people in similar protective gear.

Deconstruction
Step 2. Did the reporter open the freezer? Is the evidence direct or indirect?

What's the Evidence That Sen. Gillibrand Will Run for President?

DAILY NEWS
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand suddenly on the short list of potential presidential candidates for 2016

Democrat is raising her profile after speech to delegates efforts for fellow politicians

By KENNETH LONNETT | NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2011 10:13 PM

Direct Evidence?
Indirect Evidence?
Inference?

Test Inferences for Soundness

<p>Main Entry: evidence ♦</p> <p>Pronunciation: /e-vid-ens(t)s, -və- /</p> <p>Function: noun</p> <p>Date: 14th century</p>	<p>Main Entry: inference ♦</p> <p>Pronunciation: /in-f(ə)-'ren(t)s, -f(ə)n(t)s/</p> <p>Function: noun</p> <p>Date: 1594</p>
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Evidence: Information that proves or disproves something

Inference: Taking information that is accepted as true and then drawing a conclusion that may or may not be valid

Deconstruction
Step 2. Did the reporter open the freezer? Is the evidence direct or indirect?

Checking Inferences

The New York Times
Crime Blotter Has a Regular: Yankees Caps

By MARY FERRELL
Published: September 10, 2010

Deconstruction

Step 2: Did the reporter open the freezer? Is the evidence direct or indirect?

**Pulling all-nighters earns lower GPAs**

Updated 10/14/2012 6:12 AM | Comments: 1023 | Facebook | Twitter
By Michael Witzens, Associated Press



In Thacher's first study, 85 students said they had pulled one or more all-nighters, and 45 said they hadn't done any. The survey was conducted in Psychology 101 classes, and included students in a variety of majors.

Is The Inference Sturdy?

Deconstruction

Step 3: Evaluate the sources, using IMVA/IN

**Deconstruction**

Step 3: Evaluate the sources, using IMVA/IN

- 1) **I**ndependent Sources Are **Better** Than Self-Interested Sources
- 2) **M**ultiple Sources Are **Better** Than Single Sources
- 3) Sources Who **V**erify Are **Better** Than Sources Who Assert
- 4) **A**uthoritative/**I**nformed Sources Are **Better** Than Uninformed Sources
- 5) **N**amed Sources Are **Better** Than Unnamed Sources

(Mnemonic Device: **I'M VAIN**)**Deconstruction**

Step 3: Evaluate the sources, using IMVA/IN

Independence vs. Self-Interest**VOICE**

Brooklyn

Eyewitness "Certain" Kimani Gray Was Unarmed When Police Shot Him

By Ryan Dempsey, Phil. Star, 10/21/14 11:07 AM
Copyright: Brooklyn

"After the anti-crime sergeant and police officer told the suspect to show his hands, which was heard by witnesses, Gray produced a revolver and pointed it at the officers, who fired a total of 21 rounds, striking Gray several times," Paul J. Brown, the chief spokesman for the Police Department, said.

Tuliana King claims to have watched the entire scene unfold from her window. She told the Daily News she is "certain [Gray] didn't have anything in his hands" when he was shot.



Deconstruction
Step 3: Evaluate the sources, using IMVA/IN

Multiple aka Corroboration

Deconstruction
Step 3: Evaluate the sources, using IMVA/IN

Verifying or Asserting?

ALJAZEERA

PLO officials call for Arafat inquiry

Executive committee member says Arafat's poisoning by poison was a crime "sanctioned by a state".

A report by Swiss experts, obtained by Al Jazeera, showed that Arafat's advanced remains contained 18 times the natural levels of the highly radioactive isotope, polonium-210.

"The [new] results proved Arafat was poisoned by polonium, and the substance is owned by states, not people, meaning that the crime was committed by a state," said **Yusef Abu Yusef**, a member of the PLO's executive committee.

Yusef Abu Yusef, a senior member of the PLO's executive committee, told Al Jazeera the report may prompt the committee to push for an "independent and internationally credible investigation into the crime".

"Only Israel has the means and the motive to order to commit this crime. This is a scandal and a crime that makes the Israeli responsible."

Abu Yusef accused that everything is done to ensure that Arafat was not the first to be used by Israel's foreign intelligence services, but was killed by his soldiers. "Evening Express and AP," as reference to a 2001 2004 Israeli report on the president's assassination. "The information used to take every precaution to avoid being accused of Arafat's death," and others who served as Arafat's spokesman.

Deconstruction
Step 3: Evaluate the sources, using IMVA/IN

Evaluating Sources

WORLD NEWS

New York Tour Bus Crash Kills 14 in New York

Tour Bus Spills in Hell After Baking Chipmunk 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.

How Reliable Are Mr. Williams' Friends?
(Bookard and Jackson)
What Do You Base That On?

Trustworthy Anonymous Sources Are Offered to You With:

- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Characterization
- ✓ Corroboration

Deconstruction
Step 3: Evaluate the sources, using IMVA/IN

Anonymous Sources

Transparent enough?

The Washington Post

Benghazi attack may cloud Clinton's legacy

All of the following are true: The report is a fair and balanced analysis of the attack. The report is a fair and balanced analysis of the attack. The report is a fair and balanced analysis of the attack.

Characterized enough?

Los Angeles Times

Town hall awaits Obama and Romney

Obama made something between Clinton and Bush on the campaign trail. Obama for sure learned when speaking directly to a voter, rather than a camera. As a candidate on the trail in a state, he showed himself able to face nearly 500, when it came to listening and connecting.

Deconstruction
Step 4: Does the reporter make his/her work transparent?

Key Definitions

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Deconstruction
Step 4: Does the reporter make his/her work transparent?

What is the example of transparency?




National Public Radio Reports from Basra

Deconstruction
Step 5: Does the reporter place the facts, the story, in context?

Obama Averages 41.5% Job Approval in His 23rd Quarter
Among the latest quarterly averages of the president

Story highlights

- President Obama's job approval rating averaged 41.5% during his 23rd quarter in office, which began on Oct. 20 and ended on Oct. 19. That falls at one of the lowest quarterly approval ratings since the end of his first term in 2009.

Deconstruction
Step 5: Does the reporter place the facts, the story, in context?

A Car Is Stolen Every 20 Minutes

Nassau and Suffolk are two of New York's 62 counties, but account for 10% of car thefts.

Deconstruction
Step 6: Are the key questions answered? (Who-What-When-Where-Why-How)

Who - Police identify the cobra as "Alvin", a 15-year-old male.
What - Police identify the cobra as "Alvin", a 15-year-old male.
When - Police identify the cobra as "Alvin", a 15-year-old male.
Where - Police identify the cobra as "Alvin", a 15-year-old male.
Why - Police identify the cobra as "Alvin", a 15-year-old male.
How - Police identify the cobra as "Alvin", a 15-year-old male.

THE BRONX, N.Y. (AP) — Five officials want to know what caused a cobra moving from its enclosure early Sunday morning that had the lizard and a keeper in trouble.

Police identify the cobra as "Alvin", a 15-year-old male. Alvin was seen by staff at the Bronx Zoo on Sunday morning. A 27-year-old daughter is being treated at Jacobus Hospital, doctors listing her in critical condition.

Police say the cobra broke out around 5:15 a.m. at the zoo's government-owned 4,100-ft. (201-ft.) and was still in its enclosure. Firefighters finally got things under control an hour and half later. Three of the six suspects were injured.

According to a report on the Sunday Daily News, Alvin was well-protected in the enclosure. People see how deeply involved with his family, when he snuggles kids with him and unharmed in his food.

In addition to serving as a snake handler for the zoo, Alvin was also a field guide in the Bronx, where he was often seen with his family in the enclosure.

Deconstruction
Step 6: Are the key questions answered? (Who-What-When-Where-Why-How)

The New York Times
Bronx Zoo Cobra Found Alive

Updated | 4:51 p.m.

She's been found!

An Egyptian cobra at the Bronx Zoo that had been missing for seven days was discovered "alive and well" on Thursday inside a nonpublic area of the zoo's Reptile House, not far from where she disappeared, said James J. Breheny, the zoo's director.

Deconstruction
 Step 7: Is the story fair or balanced? Which should it be? What about fair play and fair language?

Peer jury finds teen girls engage in 'vicious' cyberbullying

By Karen Ann Collins
 Tribune reporter
 12:18 PM CDT, April 8, 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.

Bruce Laveaux, New Trier Township's community service administrator, said of the 13 teens who appeared before the township's peer jury in 2013, 27 were males and 8 were females.

Said Laveaux, "I'm concerned that girls were often accused of cyberbullying offenses he described as among the township's "worst cases."

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

And The Whole Point Is....

What can a news consumer Do with this information

Is it actionable?

Deconstructing the News
 Case Study: The pregnant man story



Pregnant man is expecting baby in July
 BY COMBINED NEWS SERVICES


Thomas Beatie, who's expecting a girl, tells his story in a first-person account published in "The Advocate" magazine, that also includes a picture of him while he was 22 weeks pregnant.

Beatie, legally a male, lives with his wife, Sherry. He claims to have stopped taking his testosterone medication on gay purpose. "Determination to win a requirement for my assignment, so I decided to have those reconstructive and testosterone changes. For legal reproductive rights," he wrote in the story for the gay and lesbian magazine.

"How does it feel to be a pregnant man?" Inevitable," 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."

Assess reliability by Evaluating Sources & Evidence

Case Study: The pregnant man story



Thomas Beatie, a married man who used to be a woman, is pregnant with a baby girl

"A transgender man can be pregnant because he has the same organs as a woman," Dr. Madsen said on the ABC's Good Morning America show.

Some of the Beatie's neighbors in Deerfield expressed doubt the pregnancy claim. One resident, Josh Love, told ABC: "I couldn't say that he looks pregnant. I can stick my stomach out and most people would think that I think it's just of course. I don't know if he's pregnant."

The Advocate said it had confirmed the story with Mr. Beatie's doctor.

Do These Sources Help?

Deconstructing the News Case Study: The pregnant man story



Does This Sonogram Help?

Deconstructing the News Case Study: The pregnant man story

Pregnant man Thomas Beatie gives birth to baby girl



Do Baby Photos Help?

Deconstructing methodically The workbook method



How reliable?

Texting.wmv

Deconstructing the News



Weigh sources and evidence

Deconstructing to judge reliability

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And the Whole Point Is... Is it actionable?

Can you reach a conclusion?

Can you take an action?

Can you make a judgment?

Should you re-post this information?

Assignments:

1. Bring Deconstruction Workbook to Recitation
2. Writing assignment: “Deconstructing the Washington Post’s report on Walter Reed Hospital”