

Lecture: TRUTH & VERIFICATION (Sister to the next, Source Evaluation)

Lecturer's Overview

Opener: Newsweek reports the Quran desecration story, riots break out across the Muslim world and 15 are killed...over a report that proves to be wrong. This lecture focuses on what journalists mean by "truth" and how journalists attempt to verify information (the *verification process*).

This is a jam-packed lecture that starts 'way up the ladder of abstraction (What is the nature of journalistic truth) and ends 'way down at the concrete foot of that ladder with specific lessons how to evaluate sources.

Recap slides: LESSONS OF PROJECT IMPLICIT

ANY DEFICITS REVEALED BY THE TEST

News Matters: NOTE WE HAVE BUILT ONE ON GAY TEEN BOY SUICIDES, GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION, ETC...

Housekeeping: HUFFINGTON SPEAKS 25TH. WE GRANT EXTRA CREDIT, BUT IT'S NOT A "MY LIFE AS."

WE'RE SENDING THEM TO BLACKBOARD FOR TRUTH DEBATE VIDEO

Lecture points:

- ✓ Journalistic truth, like scientific, is provisional
- ✓ So, news consumers must follow the news
- ✓ Today we flesh out verification
- ✓ What is Direct Evidence, vs. Indirect?
- ✓ Many examples of each, plus

Three new, important lessons emerge for news consumers in this class:

- ✓ Follow the story.
- ✓ Evaluate sources, evaluate sources, evaluate sources.
- ✓ Ask yourself: has the reporter opened the freezer?

Assignments: Individual by lecture

Background Packet: (TK)