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Says Who?



Critical Evaluation of Sources in News Reports

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Smart Questions About Sources:

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

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

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Quake.wmv

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Today: Five Smart Questions About Sources:



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News Matters



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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. Hints Iraq Tie to Soviet Smallpox
CIA investigate informant's accusation that Iraq obtained smallpox from the Soviet Union

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 20, 2002

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Why Sources Matter

10 Nov 2002

Contamination Vehicle Security

Chemical Munitions Bunker

Leaving Office in Characteristic Mode

inspector's unverified claims about Iraq's WMD programme, which turned out to be non-existent, destroyed his credibility at the UN.

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What Are the Consequences When The Press Gets it Wrong?

U.S. Invades Iraq to Capture WMD

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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

Associated Press

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.

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To Be Fair...

"Saddam Hussein has created the better part of his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction out of the same shoddiness that the fundamental question of whether or not we can rely on the Bush administration to mark kind out of the hands of an international security adviser. Facts delivered from our allies in the Middle East are being stolen from us. Stealing the source of the story, Feb. 27, 1998."

Madeline Albright, Feb. 18, 1998.

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New York magazine

The Source of the Trouble

Pulitzer Prize winner Judith Miller's series of exclusives about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq—courtesy of the now-notorious Ahmad Chalabi—helped the New York Times keep up with the competition and the Bush administration bolster the case for war. How the very same talents that caused her to get the story also caused her to get it wrong.

If Miller is an extreme example of the *Times'* ultracompetitive mind-set, she is also an example of an inherent problem of journalism: its reliance on sources.

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Critical Thinking skills:

- identify the elements in a reasoned case, especially reasons and conclusions;
- identify and evaluate assumptions;
- clarify and interpret expressions and ideas;
- judge the acceptability, especially the credibility, of claims;
- evaluate arguments of different kinds;
- analyse, evaluate and produce explanations;
- analyse, evaluate and make decisions;
- draw inferences;
- produce arguments.

Critical Thinking
in
writing

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Journalists are people who need people

What Kind of People?

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Today: Five Smart Questions About Sources:

- What is her/his self-interest?
- Does anyone else say so?
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- How would this source know?
- Who, exactly, is this source?

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How Journalists Pursue the Truth

Look Who's Talking

<p>Direct Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver of Car • Eyewitnesses • Breathalyzer Report • Driving Records • Accident Reports for the Road 		<p>Indirect Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus Police • University Officials • Lawyer for Driver • Friends and Relatives of Victims • Family of Driver • Students on Campus
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Judging the Reliability of 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?

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

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Judging the Reliability of Sources

1) Independent Sources
Are Better Than
Self-Interested Sources

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Independent Sources Are Better Than Self-Interested Sources

NEW YORK POST

Flurry of OT cash for Sanit snowmen

The Sanitation Department said most of the top OT earners were front-line managers. Timmes was the supervisor of the department's satellite information center.

"He got a couple of winks and went right back to the command and control center," said Sanitation spokesman Vito Turso.

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Copshot.wmv

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Independent or Self-Interested?

PIX11 Nassau PBA President: Interfering Ex-NYPD Cop To Blame For Nassau Cop's Death

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Independence: A Ruthless Standard

Libyan Woman Claims Rape By Soldiers, Is Dragged Away

HADEEL AL-SHALCHI | 3:25:11 04:48 PM

Important | Fascinating | Typical | Scary | Outrageous | Amazing | Infuriating | Beautiful

Read More: [Gaddafi Protesters](#), [Libya](#), [Libya Protesters](#), [Libya Rape](#), [Libya Rebels](#), [Libya Revolution](#), [Libya Splitting](#), [Libya Women Rights](#), [Muammar Gaddafi](#), [World News](#)

SHARE THIS STORY

514 183 47 2,486

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Tripoli, Libya (AP) — A distraught Libyan woman stormed into a Tripoli hotel Saturday to tell foreign reporters that government troops raped her, setting off a brass when hotel staff and government ministers tried to detain her.

Iman al-Oweid was tackled by waitresses and government ministers as she sat telling her story to journalists after she rushed into the restaurant at the Rixos hotel where a number of foreign journalists were eating breakfast.

She claimed loudly that troops had detained her at a checkpoint, beat her up, abused her, then led her away to be gang raped.

Her story could not be independently verified, but the dramatic scene provided a rare firsthand glimpse of the brutal crackdown on public dissent by Moammar Gadhafi's regime as the Libyan leader fights a rebellion against his rule that began last month.

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In Pursuit of Truth Blackwater shooting

They killed innocent people for no reason.

He started shooting buses randomly.

Two helicopters also were firing at people.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNITED STATES
ARMY

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Judging the Reliability of Sources

Sources Who **V**erify Are Better Than Sources Who **A**ssert

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Verifying or Asserting?

CONCORD MONITOR
Published on Concord Monitor (<http://www.concordmonitor.com>)
Source: The elusive mountain lion

The elusive mountain lion

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
FISHING HUNTING LICENSES EDUCATION AND TRAINING WILDLIFE OUTDOOR RECREATION
NEWSROOM


CONTACT:
Mark Ellingwood: 603-271-2461
Janis Yachem: 603-271-3211
September 18, 2009

CH Possible Mountain Lion Sighting in New Hampshire

"If the animal does survive, we would expect to collect hard evidence of its existence in the form of a picture, tracks, scat and/or DNA evidence," said Fish and Game Wildlife Division Chief Steve Weber

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Verifying or Asserting?




[The San Diego Union-Tribune, 1992]
Baghdad Betty, a 1990's version of are supposed to demoralize the U.S. you Americans here? Don't you know American movie stars. . . . He Tom.

[The Guardian, 1991]
BAGHDAD BETTY, Iraq's English-language, indulged in some mischievous bitch stars. Big screen heart-throbs like for anxiety, but who imitated the de

[Toronto Star, 1991]
[On] Feb. 1 host Johnny Carson opened the show with what he called a retraction. He recalled that some time previously he writers had manufactured a gag about an Iraq announcer called 'Baghdad Betty' telling soldiers their womenfolk were being romanced at home by Tom Selleck, Tom Cruise and Homer Simpson.
The story spread, Carson said, and soon it was being retold, even on wire services, as fact, with one change — Homer Simpson, the father in The Simpsons animated cartoon series, was replaced by Bart Simpson, his 9-year-old son.
Sad Carson: "It was a joke. We made it up."


radio broadcasts said: "Why are friends are dating



weekend Betty ing adultery by sleeping with movie might have presented some cause cters?"

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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?"

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Judging the Reliability of Sources

Authoritative/Informed Sources Are Better Than Un-informed Sources

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Authoritative/Informed Sources vs. Un-informed Sources

BBC NEWS

The long-held theory of how humans first populated the Americas may have been well and truly broken.

Archaeologists have unearthed thousands of stone tools that predate the technology widely assumed to have been carried by the first settlers. The discoveries in Texas are seen as compelling evidence that the so-called Clovis culture does not represent America's original immigrants. This is almost like a baseball bat to the side of the head of the archaeological community to wake up and say, 'hey, there are pre-Clovis people here, that we have to stop quibbling and we need to develop a new model for peopling of the Americas.'" Michael Waters, a Texas A&M University anthropologist, told reporters.

For 80 years, it has been argued that the Clovis culture was the first to sweep into the New World.

But anthropologist Tom Dillehay, who was not involved with the latest study, commented: "The Clovis first paradigm died years ago. There are many other accepted pre-Clovis candidates throughout the Americas now."


In addition, said the Vanderbilt anthropologist, the tools come from a foundation deposit that is said to be 5 to 6 cm thick. This, he said, was "intriguingly problematic" because of the possibility that artifacts were transported around by water.

Professor Gary Haynes, from the University of Nevada in Reno, US, praised the "good work" by the research team.

But he said it was plausible that natural processes could have caused some stone tools to migrate downwards in the clay - giving the impression of a pre-Clovis layer.

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Authoritative/Informed Sources vs. Un-informed Sources



When you look at unbalanced people, how they respond to the vitriol that comes out of certain mouths about tearing down the government - the anger, the hatred, the bigotry that goes on in this country is getting to be outrageous I think people who are unbalanced are especially susceptible to vitriol."

-Pima County (Arizona) Sheriff Clarence Dupnik

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Authoritative/Informed Sources vs. Un-informed Sources

Madison lab solves mystery of Arkansas bird die-off

Blunt-force trauma from flying into homes, cars cited as cause

By Lee Bergquist of the Journal Sentinel
Jan. 6, 2011 | 11:53 COMMENTS


The mystery of the deaths of thousands of blackbirds in Arkansas this month has been solved.

They died of blunt-force trauma, according to the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison. Samples of the blackbirds - and other blackbirds from a separate mass die-off about the same time in Louisiana - were brought to the little-known laboratory on Madison's west side for necropsies.

"They died of impact force to their bodies," said Scott Wright, chief of disease investigations at the center.

He said the birds clearly showed signs of bruises.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission said tests for evidence of pesticide poisoning were negative.



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Judging the Reliability of Sources

Named Sources Are Better Than Unnamed Sources

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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," Gavin 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.

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Who Was 'Deep Throat'?

DAILY NEWS
REVEALED!
I AM DEEP THROAT
FBI biggie, now 91, was Watergate secret source
SEE PAGES 4-6
CHECK YOUR SCRATCH & MATCH NUMBERS

Newsday
LONG ISLAND
Meet Deep Throat
FBI's No. 2 guy helped bring down Nixon
JAN 14
NIXON RESIGNS

The Most Famous Unnamed Source in History

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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.

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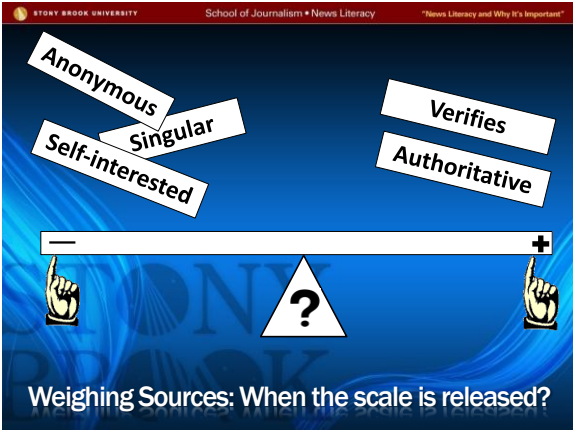
Evaluating Anonymous Sources

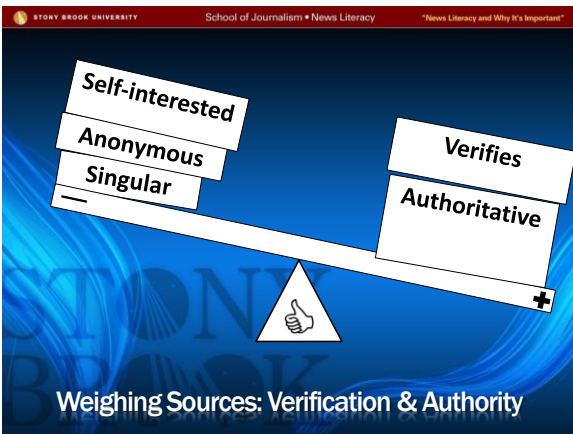
Transparency
Characterization
Corroboration (evidence/sources)

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**Evaluating Sources:
Little Weight Given In A Simple Case**







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Evaluate The Sources

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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 said in the arrangements for the high-profile visit said.

Outlets

US to spend \$200 mn a day on Obama's Mumbai visit
From Front of India, Updated: November 10, 2010 11:02 AM IST

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Evaluate The Sources

COOPER200mIL.WMV

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Judging the Reliability of Sources

- 1) Independent Sources Are Better Than Self-Interested Sources
- 2) Multiple Sources Are Better Than Single Sources
- 3) Sources Who Verify Are Better Than Sources Who Assert
- 4) Authoritative/Informed Sources Are Better Than Uninformed Sources
- 5) Named Sources Are Better Than Unnamed Sources

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

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Evaluate The Source

Article Comments

US to spend \$200 mn a day on Obama's Mumbai visit

From: [Print of India](#), Updated: November 29, 2010 08:02 IST

"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.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE GAO U.S. Government Accountability Office

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Lesson #2 for the News Consumer

Evaluate Sources
Evaluate Sources
Evaluate Sources

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Evaluate Sources To Find Reliable Information

With Which You:
Make a decision
Take Action
Make a judgment

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Three Questions You Should Always Ask

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

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Assignments:

Don't forget that your Provisional Truth homework is due this week! (It was in last week's assignment folder).

Reading: Journalism of Verification [X]
Read chapter 4 in *The Elements of Journalism*, "Journalism of Verification."
Must be completed prior to recitation March 30.

Anderson Cooper Folder [X]
Deadline: Must upload before recitation March 30.
Inside this folder you will find:

- Homework directions.
- A link to the Digital Textbook where you'll read a chapter from Anderson Cooper's book "Dispatches from the Edge: A Memoir of War, Disasters and Survival." In the chapter Cooper describes his reporting in Sri Lanka shortly after the tsunami hit in 2004.

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Sodom and Gomorrah



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

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No? Then... Pop Quiz!



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