

News Literacy/Spring 2011

Read the homework directions here. You will be **posting on the discussion board** in your recitation on Blackboard. The Discussion link is located in the menu bar at the left-hand side of the homepage. Click on "Discussion" and follow the prompts.

AP Photo Homework directions

Discussion Board

What you're doing: This week, you'll be asked to review a photo and read various articles and watch a video, then create at least two thoughtful, carefully worded posts on a discussion board found in your recitation section on Blackboard.

Background: The Associated Press is a news wire service that employs thousands of journalists worldwide to gather news in text, photos, graphics, audio and video, and then releases the information to thousands of daily newspaper, radio, television, and online customers. Editors at news outlets can then choose to use the AP materials in their news presentation.

Last year a debate arose after the AP chose to release the photo of an American Marine who was being tended to after being mortally wounded by a rocket-propelled grenade.

[1. Here is the photo.](#)

2. Read this [NYT Lens Blog](#) post

3. Read this [news story](#) about the controversy.

4. Watch and listen to the [video](#) of AP Executive Editor Kathleen Carroll.

Your homework assignment: After carefully analyzing the four items listed above, discuss whether you agree with the AP decision. Explain why. If you disagree, explain why and tell what you would have done differently. Also consider the possible implications of your decision. You may respond to the original stories, or to other posts from your classmates. As always, keep the debate civil, but keep it lively.

You will not be graded necessarily on your position, but on the strength and logic of your argument and your understanding of the weight and tone a photo brings to a news report. Use specific details and examples from the readings, properly citing your sources. For example, if you quote someone from the readings, identify the person by first and last name as well as a title or other description that explains why the source is being quoted.

Why you're doing this: This week's lecture addressed the power of images both to document truth and to make a visceral connection between you and the story. This assignment offers a chance to consider the pros, cons, and consequences of using a vivid photograph.

What you should aim to get out of it: As with previous assignments, a greater understanding of the consequences of publication. And up to 3 homework points for satisfactory work, or 4 points for additional research.

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* If you have trouble, here are all the URLs for the items you must read or view:

Photo: http://mikeely.files.wordpress.com/2009/09/corporal_joshua_bernard_killed_in_action_afghanistan.jpg

NYT Lens Blog Post: <http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/04/behind-13/>

News story: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/05/world/asia/05gates.html?_r=2

Kathleen Carroll video : http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WtkXL6M750