


STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY School of Journalism • News Literacy "News Literacy and Why It's Important"

Warning: Test Ahead



10-question short-answer test on Lectures 1-6 will be administered in your next recitation.

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Question examples

A coworker says a hurricane is headed for Long Island and you turn on the TV to get a forecast. First, you see a story about school closings. Next, you see a story about Lindsey Lohan's mother joining an all-girl punk band. Last you see a story about a local church collecting food for foreign workers stranded in Libya by the unrest there. What three types of information needed by humans do these stories supply. Explain.

In News Literacy you learned that governments are at times in conflict with the press. Napoleon's remark: "Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets," illustrates what concept from the course? What is an example of a modern government seems to agree with Napoleon.

Reflect on the kidnapping or death of a journalist you read about or heard about during lecture. What course concepts are illustrated by that incident? Be specific.

Although NAME OF COUNTRY has embraced technology and freed up business to compete globally, censorship is still the norm for Internet users there. Using examples from the course, describe the kind of material that is censored there, what actions are taken to censor information and how that demonstrates the government's fear of a free press. (10 pts)

The habit of a smart news consumer is to "know Your Neighborhood." Explain what this phrase means and why it is so important.

What three characteristics should you look for in any information you receive that will let you know whether it is journalism or something else?

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Lectures 1-6:

<p>1. Week of 10/12 to 14</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>1.1. Why News Literacy Matters: How important is it for you to be able to identify credible news information and to evaluate the quality of the news? Why is it important to be able to identify credible news information and to evaluate the quality of the news? Why is it important to be able to identify credible news information and to evaluate the quality of the news?</p> <p>1.2. The Power of Information: How important is it for you to be able to identify credible news information and to evaluate the quality of the news? Why is it important to be able to identify credible news information and to evaluate the quality of the news?</p> <p>1.3. News of the World: How important is it for you to be able to identify credible news information and to evaluate the quality of the news? Why is it important to be able to identify credible news information and to evaluate the quality of the news?</p>	<p>DEFINITION: Credible</p> <p>1.1. Credible news information is news that is accurate, fair, and unbiased. It is news that is based on facts and is not distorted by bias or emotion. It is news that is based on facts and is not distorted by bias or emotion. It is news that is based on facts and is not distorted by bias or emotion.</p> <p>1.2. The Power of Information: News is a powerful force in our lives. It can inform us, entertain us, and persuade us. It can also be used to manipulate us. It is important to be able to identify credible news information and to evaluate the quality of the news.</p> <p>1.3. News of the World: News is a global phenomenon. It is important to be able to identify credible news information and to evaluate the quality of the news.</p>	<p>2. Week of 10/19 to 21</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>2.1. The World of Journalism: What is journalism? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist?</p> <p>2.2. The World of Journalism: What is journalism? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist?</p> <p>2.3. The World of Journalism: What is journalism? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist?</p>	<p>3. Week of 10/26 to 28</p> <p>Learning Objectives</p> <p>3.1. The World of Journalism: What is journalism? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist?</p> <p>3.2. The World of Journalism: What is journalism? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist?</p> <p>3.3. The World of Journalism: What is journalism? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist? What is the role of the journalist?</p>
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You Are the Editor



Obama Pledges more funding for college loans

LADY GAGA COMES TO STONY BROOK!

Stony Brook FINALLY in NCAA Tournament!

Two Students killed by drunk driver on South Campus road

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You Are the Editor



Obama Proposes MORE Money for College Loans!

LADY GAGA COMES TO STONY BROOK!

Administrator quietly voices amid allegations of sexual misconduct

Two Students killed by drunk driver on South Campus road

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You Are the Editor



Drunk Driver to Blame for Deadly Crash

Obama Pledges more funding for college loans

LADY GAGA COMES TO STONY BROOK!

Stony Brook FINALLY in NCAA Tournament!

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News Matters



And the Driver is...

Submitted by: Slew Diaz
Professor Dan Linc-Deshwaine

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The Washington Post

NEWS | LOCAL | POLITICS | SPORTS | OPINIONS | BUSINESS | ARTS & LIVING | GOING OUT GUIDE | JOBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE | SHOPPING

Supreme Court rules First Amendment protects church's right to picket funerals



Speech is powerful. It can ...inflict great pain. We cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker. As a Nation we have chosen a different course - to protect even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate.

inseparable from the and in no instance is this at of the press."

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A Brief History of Opinion Journalism



Alexander Hamilton Starts the *New York Post* and Attacks Thomas Jefferson

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The Rise of the "Objective" Press

The Advertiser Model – Newspaper publishers needed to attract a wide variety of readers and advertisers

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Question # 1:

How do we tell the difference between News Reporting and Opinion Journalism?

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News Report Or Opinion Journalism?



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News Report Or Opinion Journalism?

foxdontask.wmv

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News Report or Opinion Journalism?

NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE www.nationalreview.com

THE EDITORS
JOURNAL OF LAW, LIBERTY & ETHICS

DECEMBER 2, 2010 12:08 PM


Don't Ask Don't Tell Blackmail

Of all the possible reasons to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates offered the worst on Tuesday. According to Gates, Congress must act before a judge acts for it.

As the Pentagon released its long-anticipated report blessing a repeal, Gates warned that there is a "very real possibility that this change would be imposed immediately by judicial fiat." If that "disruptive and damaging scenario" occurred, it would be "most hazardous to military morale, readiness, and battlefield performance."


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Sturgeon General's Warning: A News Report will often include the opinions of experts, participants, witnesses or others quoted in the story. That is not what is meant by Opinion Journalism.



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Definition of News

Main Entry: **news** 

Pronunciation: \ˈnūz, ˈnyūz\
 Function: *noun plural but singular in construction*
 Usage: *often attributive*
 Date: 15th century

News is information about a subject of some public interest that is shared and subject to the journalistic process of verification by an independent organization that is accountable.

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Definition of Opinion

Main Entry: **opin-ion** 
Pronunciation: \ə-ˈpin-yən\
Function: *noun*
Etymology: Middle English, from Anglo-French, from Latin *opinion-*, *opinio*, from *opinari*
Date: 14th century

Opinion is a view, a judgment, or an appraisal formed in the mind about a particular matter.

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How You Can Tell If It's News Reporting or Opinion Journalism?

Language and Labeling

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Opinion Landmarks: Language

- First-person statements
- Exaggeration or Superlatives
- Emotional or dramatic descriptions
- Tone (sarcasm, irony, parody)

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Opinion Journalism Landmarks: Language

The New York Times
February 18, 2011

Security Forces in Bahrain Open Fire on Protesters

By MICHAEL SLACKMAN and NADRA LAIDI

MANAMA, Bahrain — At exactly 5:18 p.m. Friday, the pro-democracy demonstrators, mostly young men, came to a fork in the road. Turn right, and they would head to a hospital that has cared for protesters. Turn left, and into Pearl Square, the symbolic center of the nation, where the army was waiting.

The crowd paused, just briefly, to let out a cheer, and turned left. Within minutes they were screaming. "Live fire, live fire," as the military began shooting — from a high-rise building, from a helicopter and from the road in front of the demonstrators. King [Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa's](#) government had warned them: march and you will be shot. The opposition had warned the king that it would never give up.

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Opinion Journalism Landmarks: Language

By Michael Slackman
The Opinion Pages

Here in Bahrain on Saturday, I felt almost physically ill as I watched a column of pro-democracy marchers approach the Pearl Roundabout, the spiritual center of their movement. One day earlier, troops had opened fire on marchers there, with live ammunition and without any warning. So I flinched and braced myself to watch them die.



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Editorial Cartooning, Animated

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Walt-wm

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The Importance of Labeling

- Reporter's Notebook:
- Editorial:
- News-Page Column:
- Review:
- Op-Ed Contribution:
- News Analysis:

The Forms of News and Opinion

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The Importance of Labeling

The Forms of News and Opinion

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The News to Opinion Spectrum: Print

CO2 MOVIE REVIEW
Shutter Island (2009)

"Shutter Island" takes place off the coast of Massachusetts in 1954. I'm sorry, that should be OFF THE COAST OF MASSACHUSETTS! IN 1954! since every detail and incident in the movie, however minor, is subjected to frantic, almost demented (and not always unenjoyable) amplification. The wail of strangled cellos accompanies shots of the titular island, a sinister, rain-lashed outcropping that is home to a mental hospital for the CRIMINALLY INSANE! The color scheme is lurid, and the camera movements telegraph anxiety. Nothing is as it seems. Something TERRIBLE is afoot.

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The News to Opinion Spectrum on TV

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News to Opinion on TV

TVSpectrum.wmv

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The News to Opinion Spectrum Online

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Question #2: Why should you care which is which?

The goal of news reporting is to give you the information you need for your Fourth Estate role.

The goal of opinion journalism is to help you make up your mind about that information.

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The Wall: Why It Matters

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The Virtual "Wall" In Practice

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Question #3: What is the value of Opinion Journalism?

- Gives you new insights
- Challenges your assumptions
- Helps you make a decision or judgment

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Opinion Journalism is Valuable When:

- You are well-informed
- You are open-minded
- You are active, not passive

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Question #4: How Do You Spot Counterfeit Opinion Journalism? (Evidence vs. Emotion)

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Opinion Journalism or Counterfeit?

UncleRush.wmv

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Opinion Journalism or Counterfeit?

annecouter.com

DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL, DON'T CALL OUR TROOPS HOMOPHOBES
by Ann Coulter
December 9, 2010

The Pentagon's poll on "don't ask, don't tell" is beyond idiotic. Instead of asking whether the troops support repeal of DADT, the Pentagon asked only if they can learn to play nice with the gays.

Even more idiotically, the Pentagon polled all military "personnel" -- and their spouses! Only a small portion of what is known as "the military" actually does the fighting. The rest is a vast bureaucracy along the lines of the DMV.

Today's military features "victim advocates" and sensitivity training facilitators, the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services personnel and a million other go-goop positions. How did we ever take the shores of Normandy without a phalanx of "sensitivity training" counselors?

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Opinion Journalism or Counterfeit?

Fact-based vs. Emotion-based Logic vs. Belief

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Who Cares if Opinions Are Logic-based?

**ICE CREAM IS MURDER!
BANISH BEN! JAIL JERRY!**



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Who Cares if Opinions Are Fact-based?



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Moynihan's Maxim

"Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but they are not entitled to their own facts."



Daniel Patrick Moynihan (deceased)
Ambassador,
Four-term U.S. Senator from New York

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Journalism, Opinion Journalism or Counterfeit Opinion Journalism Which Is It?

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Journalism, Opinion Journalism or Counterfeit Opinion Journalism Which Is It?

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News vs. Opinion: A Summary

To tell the difference between news and opinion, analyze language & labeling

Start with news: Know the news before you seek opinions about the news

Moynihan's maxim: *"You're entitled to your own opinion, but you're not entitled to your own facts."*

Alternate views can sharpen your thinking

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Assignments:

6. Student Assignments for the week of 3/7 to 3/11

Build Content Create Assessment Add Interactive Tool Assign Textbook

- News vs. Opinion News
 - Inside this folder you will find:
 - Two readings, web links are provided
 - Homework directions
 - SafeAssignment link where you will upload your work
 - Must be uploaded prior to recitation meeting
- Reminder: Test #1 in recitation. The test covers all course material from lectures 1 to 6.
- Complete the readings inside this folder prior to L7: Balance, Fairness and Bias

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Assignments:

Complete the readings inside this folder prior to L7: Balance, Fairness and Bias

Build Content Create Assessment Add interactive Tool Assign Textbook

- [The Public Bias Against the Press](#)

Click the hyperlink and read the article by Roy Peter Clark.
- [Your Brain Lies to You](#)

Open the folder and read the article.
- [Undecideds More Decided Than They Think](#)

Open the folder and read the article.

Common Errors in Critical Thinking

<p>Denying the antecedent</p> <p>If it is illegal, no one will publish it. It is not illegal. Therefore, someone will publish it. What other reasons might explain why no one has published it?</p>	<p>Affirming the consequent</p> <p>If it is illegal, no one will publish it. No one has published it. Therefore, it must be illegal. What other reasons might explain why no one has published it?</p>	<p>Quoting out of context</p> <p>According to President Obama's own records, he has not been impeached. Why is only a very small part of what President Obama said quoted?</p>	<p>Begging the question</p> <p>Of publishing secrets wasn't illegal. That law should not be passed because they will be secrets public records. Why is publishing secrets prohibited and illegal to begin with?</p>
<p>Existential fallacy</p> <p>All conservatives are hard to verify. Therefore, some news stories that we had to verify are conservatives. What other reasons might make it difficult to verify a news story?</p>	<p>The "fallacy" fallacy</p> <p>We shouldn't publish it if it is illegal. It is not illegal. Therefore, we should publish it. Why is disproving a faulty argument not a reason to do something?</p>	<p>Straw-man argument</p> <p>We should limit the press during war, otherwise we will be totally exposed to attack from our enemies. How does this exaggerated position relate to the argument at hand?</p>	<p>Slippery slope</p> <p>It is too easy for some secret news, then inevitably governments will start on censoring all news. Why does a first small step inevitably lead to a significant consequence?</p>
<p>Sleeper effect</p> <p>I remember hearing last month that the Democrats will gain seats. (I forgot that I heard that in a TV ad.) Why are people more likely to recall the message and forget the source?</p>	<p>Cognitive dissonance</p> <p>I think Democrats help the poor. Democrats voted to fund welfare. Welfare must be bad for the poor. Why is it difficult for us to hold two contradictory beliefs simultaneously?</p>	<p>Appeal to authority</p> <p>We cannot publish secret documents. The Supreme Court is in charge. Therefore it must be illegal. Why should we trust the advice of "experts" without further scrutiny?</p>	<p>Bandwagon fallacy</p> <p>No other newspapers published it. Therefore, we shouldn't find it must not be worth publishing. Why should popularity be a good reason to do or not do something?</p>
<p>Framing</p> <p>I am not in favor of tax increases. Get the tax out of a bipartisan "fiscal adjustment" makes a lot of sense. Why do we draw different conclusions based on how something is presented?</p>	<p>Confirmation bias</p> <p>I am certain that Republicans would never support a "fiscal cliff" bill. I found an article that supports this. Why do we have a tendency to seek out that which confirms our beliefs?</p>	<p>Guilt by association</p> <p>We should not trust her proposals if they are supported by Republicans. A GOP legislator she met. Why should a person's membership affect the merits of their argument?</p>	<p>Red Herrings</p> <p>No one should support the tax plan presented by the Democrats. After all, this is a record of our trust. Why should a personal attack negate the arguments for the proposal?</p>