

Electronic Wasteland

What You're Doing

Watch “The Electronic Wasteland” video, which was broadcast by 60 Minutes. Review the Deconstruction Guide. Also review your notes from the lecture on TV news. Then watch the video a second time, taking notes as you do. Complete the following:

1. Identify three examples of direct evidence used in the reporting.
2. Identify three authoritative sources (use their first and last name plus any title they might have) and evaluate each of them using the sourcing guidelines: I’M VAIN. Assign a number value from 1 to 10 to each source that reflects how reliable they are within the context of the report. One is the weakest and 10 the strongest.
3. Using all the steps in the Deconstruction Guide, establish whether the report is reliable. Explain why or why not?

Why You're Doing This

To apply the principles of deconstruction to a TV report. The whole point of this course is to teach you how to analyze any news story, in any medium. And the final exam will ask you to do a similar exercise.

What You Should Aim to Get Out of It

Practice at deconstructing a TV news story. Practice for the final exam. Four more points on your final homework grade.