



News Drivers

This week's list of outlets are:

Print

- The New York Post
- The New York Daily News
- Newsday

Web

- www.slate.com
- www.thedailybeast.com
- www.washingtonpost.com

What You're Doing

First, read the Media Debates Chapter 10 in your digital textbook.

Next, choose three news stories on different subjects. Each story should provide several examples of different news drivers. Each story must be from a different news outlet taken from the list below. You must provide a URL or attach a clipping or print-out of the stories you choose.

1. For each story you choose, explain why you chose it and what various drivers make it newsworthy.
2. Identify the news drivers and explain the role of those drivers. Who would or should care about this story? Why?
3. Use knowledge from the Media Debates chapter to give you context for how news is selected by editors. Analyze the tension that exists between news that's interesting versus news that is necessary.

Do not summarize the stories. Get right to the point: present a clear and compelling argument supported by specific examples. If you write succinctly (and you should), about 100 words for each story is sufficient.

Grades will not necessarily be based on choice, but on your ability to analyze the news drivers and the process of news selection that you find in each article as well as the quality of your argument.

You must use quotation marks around any phrase or passage taken verbatim from one of the articles and cite all three stories properly.

Why You're Doing This

This assignment not only helps your instructor verify that you're following the news, a basic requirement of this course, but also helps you practice identifying news drivers, news value and analyzing those functions in real-world stories.

What You Should Aim to Get Out of It

You should gain a better understanding of what is news and why stories are published or broadcast. You should begin to develop the ability to critically analyze the level of newsworthiness (as in, the usefulness to the consumer) of any piece of journalism. This assignment is worth up to 4 points.