



NEWS LITERACY – JRN 101 / JRN 103

YouTube

The three YouTube videos can be found here:

Clip 1:

Clip 2:

Clip 3:

What You're Doing

Watch three video clips we selected from YouTube. View each clip several times: first to watch; second to listen; and at least one more time to take notes on the questions below. Between each viewing, refer to your lecture notes to help you decide whether each video is news or something else.

As you watch, ask yourself:

1. What is the source of this information? It's coming through YouTube, but what individual or organization created it?
2. For what purpose has it been posted for public consumption?
3. Is it journalism or is it something else?

In your paper, you should support your conclusions by citing at least three specific details from each video, but do not waste words merely describing the videos. Your instructors have seen them. Instead, spend your words on the analysis.

In 300-to-400 words (that's about 100 words per video), answer the three questions for each clip.

Why You're Doing This

This week's lecture addresses the defining elements of news and other types of information, emphasizing the importance of knowing what information "neighborhood" you're in. This assignment is an opportunity to study those elements. Note: You'll need to recall them throughout the remainder of the semester, including on the final exam – and to apply them in your own critical analysis.

What You Should Aim to Get Out of It

A new skill – the ability to make important distinctions. And, a confident sense of what is news, what makes it different from, say, entertainment or publicity, and what exactly news offers to the consumer that other forms of information do not. Additional research, clear writing and thinking can earn up to 4 points.