

Example 12:

**Pregnant man is expecting baby in July**

March 27, 2009  
The ADVOCA

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Example 17: Deconstruct this story, using the Guide

**College Costs Keep Rising, Report Says**

By TAMAR

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Example 13:

**Bronx Zoo Cobra Found Alive**

By BLISSA RODRIGUES and CORIE ALBERSTE



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being put back on exhibit. She was f  
we would have predicted." Mr. Bresh  
Further said  
Robert Stelaski for The New York T  
announced at a news conference that  
Mr. Bresh said the zoo had spent  
by all of the light-heartedness" amid  
Asked what sort of danger the snake  
are "shy, secretive creatures," whose  
to procure food."  
Zoo officials said the Reptile House  
investigated how the snake escaped a  
conference that officials had not yet  
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missing, it was not in the exhibit itse  
Since then, staff members at the Wil  
conducted sweeping searches.  
News of the Egyptian cobra's captur  
became a trending topic, and many s  
@BronxZooCobra — who has rem  
Despite her newfound fame, the snal  
Bresh said. "Maybe we'll do some s

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Are the key questions answered? Why?

Example 4:

**Radiation level falls at Japan Fukushima plant: agency**



(Reuters) - The level of radiation detected at the Tokyo Electric Power Co Fukushima plant has fallen steadily over the past 12 hours, an official at Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said on Thursday.  
A level of 152 microsieverts per hour was recorded at the plant's main gate at 5 p.m. (2000 GMT) on Thursday, according to the agency.  
The reading was 338 microsieverts per hour. That level was still much higher than it should be, but was not dangerous, and that by comparison the operation of a level of 400 was normal from being outside over the course of a year, Ohmura said.  
(Reporting by Terril Jones)

CENTER  
FOR NEWS  
LITERACY

DECONSTRUCTION WORKBOOK

Find an example of direct evidence and circle it.

Characterize Tetsuo Ohmura as a source using I'M YAIN \_\_\_\_\_

How reliable is this report? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Over the coming weeks, you'll use this workbook - stocked with examples from actual news reports- to practice "*Deconstruction*," which is a methodical series of steps by which you apply News Literacy concepts to the analysis of components of a news report before concluding if the report is reliable.

The Deconstruction steps are in a chart on the back page of this workbook.

*Reminder: Examples in this workbook are drawn from actual news reports, but some have been shortened or altered from the original to suit the purposes of News Literacy exercises.*

...

**Summarize in your head: Is the headline supported by the story?**

## Assaults Plague Campus

On October 17, 2006, Peter Baigent, the Vice President of Student Affairs sent an e-mail to the entire university informing students, staff and faculty of the recent sexual assault of two female students.

According to Douglas Little, Assistant Chief of the Stony Brook Police Department, the two men allegedly involved with the assault are known to the police. Little commented, "Both the Suffolk County police and Stony Brook Police departments are working on the case together."

When asked about the safety of the campus community with respect to this recent incident, Little mentioned, "There is no threat to the campus community." However, upon further questioning, Little did continue on to say that the campus community should remain vigilant when considering these types of crimes.

Little reported, "Sexual assault is a very underreported crime." He continued, "The [two] women were very courageous, and the university has given them 100% support." Little was unable to provide any information about the location of the attack on campus because of possible violations of the privacy of the two female students.

Aside from this recent incident, students also have the ability to become involved with the pro-active measures set in place by the university to minimize the occurrence of such attacks.

*- Is this headline adequately supported in this story? Point to specifics in the story*

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## The “Delayed Lead” (+Analyze journalistic evidence)

### An Agent, a Green Card, and a Demand for Sex

By NINA BERNSTEIN (New York Times)

No problems so far, the immigration agent told the American citizen and his 22-year-old Colombian wife at her green card interview in December. After he stapled one of their wedding photos to her application for legal permanent residency, he had just one more question: What was her cellphone number?

The calls from the agent started three days later. He hinted, she said, at his power to derail her life and deport her relatives, alluding to a brush she had with the law before her marriage. He summoned her to a private meeting. And at noon on Dec. 21, in a parked car on Queens Boulevard, he named his price — not realizing that she was recording everything on the cellphone in her purse.

“I want sex,” he said on the recording. “One or two times. That’s all. You get your green card. You won’t have to see me anymore.”

She reluctantly agreed to a future meeting. But when she tried to leave his car, he demanded oral sex “now,” to “know that you’re serious.” And despite her protests, she said, he got his way.

The 16-minute recording, which the woman first took to The New York Times and then to the Queens district attorney, suggests the vast power of low-level immigration law enforcers, and a growing desperation on the part of immigrants seeking legal status. The aftermath, which included the arrest of an immigration agent last week, underscores the difficulty and danger of making a complaint, even in the rare case when abuse of power may have been caught on tape.

No one knows how widespread sexual blackmail is, but the case echoes other instances of sexual coercion that have surfaced in recent years, including agents criminally charged in Atlanta, Miami and Santa Ana, Calif. And it raises broader questions about the system’s vulnerability to corruption at a time when millions of noncitizens live in a kind of legal no-man’s land, increasingly fearful of seeking the law’s protection.

**Link to the audio:** <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/21/nyregion/21immigrant.html>

*A lead (pronounced “leed”) is a sentence or two near the top of a news article. An effective lead catches the reader’s attention honestly and makes them want to keep reading. It doesn’t need to summarize the entire story, but it should convey the main point. Usually it’s the first sentence. Occasionall, a reporter will not lead with the main point and instead starts with some scene-setting or an anecdote as in this case. When that happens, the “lead” may come later in the stoy, but it still tells you what the main point is.*

*- Find the lead and circle it.*

*-In this story, circle examples of direct and indirect evidence*

*-Find an example of context. Circle it.*

*-How close does the reporter come to opening the freezer? Explain*

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## Analyze Journalistic Evidence, Evaluate Sources



### Gillibrand on short list for 2016 presidential contenders

NYDailyNews.com  
**DAILY NEWS**

By KENNETH LOVETT Sunday, October 14, 2012

ALBANY — She doesn't get the same buzz as fellow New Yorkers Hillary Clinton and Gov. Cuomo, but Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand suddenly has turned up on the short list of potential presidential candidates from New York.

She set tongues wagging about her future at last month's Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., with an address to delegates from Iowa, an early proving ground in every presidential race.

Gillibrand also has been quietly helping Democratic candidates across America by raising money for them and donating to their campaigns through two political action committees she created.

Taken together, the moves are raising her profile nationally — and generating IOUs that she could cash in to support her own political ambitions one day.

But just what are those ambitions?

National and state Democrats acknowledge murmurs that Gillibrand might be interested in a 2016 presidential run — though many note she wouldn't even be the first choice in her own state, where insiders obsess about the potential candidacies of Clinton and Cuomo.

"I've heard her name come up from time to time," said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia.

"But I think she's dead third on a list of Democratic New Yorkers for a presidential nomination. If the other two don't run, maybe that's how she gets her shot."

At a minimum, Gillibrand's higher profile and expanded influence could make her a more powerful player in the Senate.

Gillibrand insists she will not run for President in 2016 and hopes Clinton gets in the race. She has vowed to serve her full six-year term if she beats heavy underdog GOP challenger Wendy Long next month.

Gillibrand was a telegenic but little-known congresswoman from upstate when she was picked by then-Gov. David Paterson to fill the seat left vacant when Clinton — one of her mentors — resigned to become secretary of state.

*Find an example of direct evidence and circle it.*

*Find any inference(s) and circle.*

*Characterize Larry Sabato as a source using I'M*

VAIN \_\_\_\_\_

*What weight do you give his statements? Why?*

## ***Does the reporter open the freezer?***

**Los Angeles Times**

### **California suppressed consultant's report on inmate suicides**

**February 28, 2013** | **By Paige St. John, Los Angeles Times**  
 SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown has pointed to reams of documents to make the case in court and on the stump that California's prison crisis is over, and inmates are receiving good care.

But there is at least one document the administration wanted to hide.

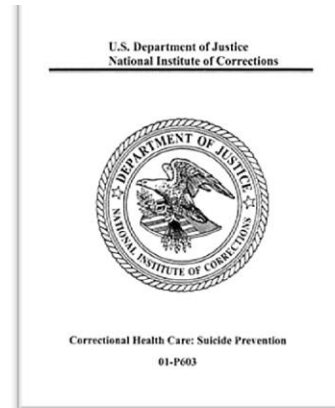
New court filings reveal that the state suppressed a report from its own consultant warning that California's prison suicide-watch practices encouraged inmate deaths.

Lindsay Hayes, a national expert on suicide prevention in prisons, told corrections officials in 2011 that the state's system of holding suicidal inmates for days in dim, dirty, airless cells with unsanitized mattresses on the floor was compounding the risk that they would take their own lives. His report described in detail inmates being divested of their clothes and possessions and robed in a "safety smock." Hayes concluded that such conditions encouraged prisoners to declare they were no longer suicidal just to escape the holding cells. Many of them took their own lives soon after.

The state asked Hayes to create a short version of his report that omitted his damaging findings, to give to a court monitor and lawyers for prisoners, the court documents show. Hayes complied, but when inmate attorneys obtained a complete copy, the state asked a U.S. District Court to order it destroyed. The judge refused.

The report says the state's handling of suicidal inmates is "seemingly punitive" and "anti-therapeutic." Hayes noted that guards, not mental health workers, dictate many of the conditions of suicide watches, such as whether to allow daily showers. Hayes alleged prison workers sometimes falsified watch logs showing how frequently those inmates were checked.

Contract records show that corrections officials recruited Hayes, a former consultant for inmate plaintiffs, to begin in 2010 a three-year project on suicide prevention, demonstrating the state's resolve to improve inmate mental health care.



*Circle any examples you can find that the reporter opened the freezer*

*How does this kind of journalistic evidence strengthen the report?*

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## ***Does the evidence support a logical inference?***

# **Crime Blotter Has a Regular: Yankees Caps**

By **MANNY FERNANDEZ**

Published: September 15, 2010

A curious phenomenon has emerged at the intersection of fashion, sports and crime: dozens of men and women who have robbed, beaten, stabbed and shot at their fellow New Yorkers have done so while wearing Yankees caps or clothing.

Yankees caps and clothing have dominated the crime blotter for so long, in so many parts of the city and in so many types of offenses, that it defies an easy explanation.

Criminologists, sports marketing analysts, consumer psychologists and Yankees fans have developed their own theories, with some attributing the trend to the popularity of the caps among gangsta rappers and others wondering whether criminals are identifying with the team's aura of money, power and success.

Since 2000, more than 100 people who have been suspects or persons of interest in connection with serious crimes in New York City wore Yankees apparel at the time of the crimes or at the time of their arrest or arraignment. The tally is based on a review of New York Police Department news releases, surveillance video and images of robberies and other crimes, as well as police sketches and newspaper articles that described suspects' clothing. No other sports team comes close.

One criminologist said the trend might be a result of what could be called the Jay-Z effect.

The rapper Jay-Z has worn a Yankees cap for years — on his album covers and in his videos — and has helped turn the cap into a ubiquitous fashion accessory for urban youths (“I made the Yankee hat more famous than a Yankee can,” he boasts in one song). It is but one of several theories. Sports marketing analysts say it is a matter of numbers: the Yankees sell more merchandise than any other baseball team. As of August, they hold a 25.13 percent market share of nationwide sales of merchandise licensed by Major League Baseball, with the Red Sox second at 7.96 percent and the Mets seventh at 5.32 percent, according to SportsOneSource, a firm that tracks the sporting goods industry. For criminals outside New York, the team's caps and clothing are nearly as popular. The man who robbed a Chase branch in a Chicago suburb in May wore a Yankees cap. In July, a young man in a Yankees cap assaulted an 81-year-old woman in her home, about 2,800 miles from Yankee Stadium, in Seattle.

“Why people pick the Yankees over the Mariners, I don't know,” said Detective Mark Jamieson, a Seattle police spokesman. “It just happened to be an article of clothing he was wearing on that particular day.”

Find an example of direct evidence and of indirect evidence and circle it.

- In what way does this reporter (and people commenting in the story) use inference: the process of combining clues with observations to come up with a hypothesis that might logically explain a pattern or might connect the wrong sets of causes and effects?

## ***Does the evidence support a logical inference?***

# Pulling all-nighters earns lower GPAs

By Michael Virtanen, Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Students who rely on all-nighters to bring up their grades might want to sleep on that strategy: A new survey says those who never study all night have slightly higher GPAs than those who do.

A survey of 120 students at St. Lawrence University, a small liberal arts college in northern New York, found that students who have never pulled an all-nighter have average GPAs of 3.1, compared to 2.9 for those who have.

The study, by assistant professor of psychology Pamela Thacher, is to be included in the January issue of [Behavioral Sleep Medicine](#).

"It's not a big difference, but it's pretty striking," Thacher said. "I am primarily a sleep researcher and I know nobody thinks clearly at 4 in the morning. You think you do, but you can't."

A second study by Thacher, a clinical psychologist, had "extremely similar" results showing lower grades among the sleep skippers. Many college students, of course, have inadequate or irregular sleep, for reasons ranging from excessive caffeine to poor time management.

Prav Chatani, a St. Lawrence sophomore who wasn't involved in either study, said the findings made sense.

The neuroscience major has been pulling fewer all-nighters, but recently stayed up until "around 4 or 5 in the morning" to prepare for an organic chemistry test and a neuroscience presentation, he said.

He found himself unable to remember some of the things he had studied.

"A lot of students were under the impression all-nighters were a very useful tool for accomplishing work, that caffeine intake was very useful in meeting deadlines and stuff like that," said Chatani, who had a 3.4 GPA last semester and doesn't expect to do too badly this semester, either. Dr. Howard Weiss, a physician at St. Peter's Sleep Center in Albany, said the study results make sense.

"Certainly that data is out there showing that short sleep duration absolutely interferes with concentration, interferes with performance on objective testing," he said.

*Find an example of inference and circle it. What conclusion could replace the inference? Is it provided? What is the common logical fallacy demonstrated in this story?*

## Evaluate sources



The death toll in a horrific bus accident on a New York highway has risen to 14. Police Department spokesman Paul Browne says a passenger who had initially survived the wreck died at a hospital Saturday afternoon.

Authorities say there were about 32 people aboard the bus when it overturned on Interstate 95 as it returned from the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut.

As it toppled, the bus was sliced, end to end, by the support pole for a large sign.

The accident happened at about 5:30 a.m. on the New England Thruway at the Hutchinson River Parkway in the Bronx.

The bus was heading southbound when it flipped on its side. It then skidded into the support post for a large highway sign. The post sliced through the length of the bus at the passenger seat level, officials said.

New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said the bus was moving at "a significant rate of speed," according to ABC station WABC-TV in New York.

Shamel Bookard and Ashanti Jackson, friends of Oferdel Williams, the driver of the bus, described him as the kind of person who is likely overwhelmed with sadness at what happened.

"I'm sure he's greatly sorry for what did happen," Jackson told WABC-TV.

They said Williams is known for his courage.

"Years ago he ran into a burning building and saved a family, there was a girl, a grandmother in a wheelchair, he brought them out the fire," Bookard told WABC-TV.

"Our -- and the entire city's -- prayers, thoughts and sympathies are with the victims, and their families and loved ones," said New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg in a statement.

*Evaluate the journalist's sources using IMVAIN and rate them, 1-5 with 5 being "very reliable" and 1 being "not at all reliable"*

*Paul*

*Browne* \_\_\_\_\_

*Ashanti*

*Jackson* \_\_\_\_\_

*Shamel*

*Bookard* \_\_\_\_\_



***Does the reporter make his/her work transparent?  
Does the reporter provide context?***

## **Teen rape trial shines unwelcome spotlight on Ohio town, football team**

CNN Justice

By Chelsea J. Carter, CNN

updated 10:27 PM EDT, Tue March 12, 2013

**Two 16-year-old**

**teens, Trent Mays and Ma'lik Richmond, are charged with rape. The boys are accused of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl at end-of-summer parties. Portions of the alleged assaults were chronicled on social media by partygoers**

(CNN) -- With the two boys at the center of the case set to go to trial on rape charges on Wednesday, an unwelcome national spotlight is shining on Steubenville, Ohio. Photos, video and social media messages are at the heart of criminal charges against the two players -- Trent Mays and Ma'lik Richmond, both juveniles -- accused of sexually assaulting the girl during a series of end-of-summer parties in August. Both boys have been identified by a judge in court, by defense attorneys and in newspapers and other media reports.

CNN is not identifying the girl, who also is a juvenile, in accordance with its policy not to release the names of alleged rape victims.

Text messages posted to social networking sites that night seemed to brag about the incident, calling the girl "sloppy," making references to rape and suggesting that she had been urinated on, Goddard has said. CNN has not been able to establish whether this is true.

In one 12-minute video, posted by Anonymous, one teenager makes multiple jokes about the girl's condition, saying she must have died because she didn't move during one assault.

Steubenville was once a thriving steel mill town. With the mills closed, the town is a shadow of its former self as a number of its residents moved away to find work elsewhere and a number of businesses closed.

Today, its population is primarily blue collar with a median income between \$33,000 and \$34,000, well below the national average.

*Circle any examples of context or transparency that you discover.  
How do they enable you to judge the reliability of the information in this report?*

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## ***Does the reporter place the story in context?***

### **McClatchy-Marist poll shows Obama tumbling in voters' eyes**



**By Steven Thomma | McClatchy Newspapers**

last updated: March 11, 2013 05:22:45 PM

WASHINGTON -- If President Barack Obama had piled up political capital with his impressive re-election, it's largely gone. His approval rating has dropped to the lowest level in more than a year, with more voters now turning thumbs down on his performance than thumbs up, according to a new McClatchy-Marist poll. The measure of how much people like him also has dropped.

He's still vastly more popular than Congress, particularly congressional Republicans. But in the biggest political clash of the year – over the federal budget and how to curb deficits – voters split 44 percent to 42 percent between preferring Congress or Obama.

“This may be the downside of him coming out of the box stronger in the second term,” said Lee Miringoff, the director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion at Marist College in New York, which conducted the poll. “People are now looking for him to lead us out of this stalemate, provide more leadership. During the election, it was him versus Romney. Now it's him versus people's expectations for the country.”

The national survey, conducted four months after Obama was re-elected with 51 percent of the popular vote, found 45 percent of voters approving of the way he's handling his job and 48 percent disapproving.

That was down from a 50 percent approval rating in November and December, and the lowest since November 2011. It also was the first time that more people disapproved of his work than approved since November 2011, when his rating was 43-50.

Obama's personal popularity also has declined, with 48 percent of voters having favorable impressions of him and 48 percent having unfavorable impressions. That was down from 53-44 in December. It also was the lowest since November 2011, when it was 47-49.

Another factor in the president's decline is anxiety about the economy and the country. Just 34 percent of voters think the country's heading in the right direction, while 62 percent think it's headed the wrong way. That's also the worst since November 2011. Indeed, despite gains in jobs and the stock markets, voters think by 62-34 percent that the country is still in a recession. Just 22 percent think they'll be better off in the coming year, while 41 percent think they'll be about the same and 36 percent think they'll be worse off.

*Circle any examples of context that you discover.  
How do they enable you to make sense of the information in this report?*

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## Are the key questions answered?

# Bronx Zoo Cobra Found Alive

She's been found!

The Egyptian cobra at the Bronx Zoo that had been missing for seven days has been located, officials said on Thursday.

The cobra is "alive and well," James J. Breheny, the zoo's director, told dozens of reporters who had gathered for a 4 p.m. news conference at the zoo. The adolescent snake was found inside a non-public area of the zoo's Reptile House, and was in "really good condition," he said.

Mr. Breheny said the snake, which is 24 inches long, weighs about 3 ounces, and is believed to be several months old, would rest for a short period of time before being put back on exhibit. She was found coiled in a secluded dark corner — "almost exactly as we would have predicted," Mr. Breheny said — and was caught at 9 a.m. using tongs and a piece of equipment he compared to a golf club. He said the snake avoided detection because it was lurking in an area with an "extremely complicated" system of equipment and a "labyrinth of pipes."

Since her escape, the cobra had inspired feverish news coverage and a wildly popular fake Twitter feed.

Robert Stolarik for The New York Times James J. Breheny, Director of the Bronx Zoo, announced at a news conference that the cobra had been found early Thursday morning. Mr. Breheny said the zoo had appreciated the media attention but "didn't want to get distracted by all of the light-heartedness" amid what was ultimately "a serious situation."

Asked what sort of danger the snake would have posed, Mr. Breheny said that snakes in general are "shy, secretive creatures," whose venom is "not primarily a defense mechanism. It's a way to procure food."

Zoo officials said the Reptile House would remain closed for several days while they investigated how the snake escaped and monitored the escapee. Mr. Breheny said at the news conference that officials had not yet changed any protocol but "have double-checked existing protocol and have people double-checking each other." Last Friday, when the snake went missing, it was not in the exhibit itself but in an off-exhibit holding cage.

Since then, staff members at the Wildlife Conservation Society, which operates the zoo, had conducted sweeping searches.

News of the Egyptian cobra's capture reverberated in the Twittersphere, where it quickly became a trending topic, and many said they would miss the frequent updates from @BronxZoosCobra — who has remained silent since the capture.

Despite her newfound fame, the snake has no official name. But that may change. Said Mr. Breheny: "Maybe we'll do some sort of naming contest."



*Are the key questions answered? What are they and what are the answers?*

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***Is the headline and story fair? (To Inspector McCormack)***

## **Recording Points to Race Factor in Stops by New York Police**

March 21, 2013

By **JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN** (Heavily cut for Deconstruction workbook)

For years, the debate over the New York Police Department's use of stop-and-frisk tactics has centered on whether officers engage in racial profiling. Now, a recording suggests that, in at least one precinct, a person's skin color can be a deciding factor in who is stopped.

The recording, played on Thursday in Federal District Court in Manhattan, was of a conversation between a patrol officer and his commanding officer in the 40th Precinct in the South Bronx, a violent command that recorded the highest number of police stops in the Bronx in 2011.

The commanding officer, Deputy Inspector Christopher McCormack, urged the officer to be more active, emphasizing the need to conduct more street stops. "We go out there and we summons people," Inspector McCormack said. The way to suppress violent crime, he said, was for officers to stop, question and, if necessary, frisk "the right people at the right time, the right location."

The officer who surreptitiously recorded the conversation last month, Pedro Serrano, began pressing Inspector McCormack about who he meant by the "right people." The conversation grew heated.

After an exchange about Mott Haven, a particularly crime-prone neighborhood, the inspector suggested that the police needed to conduct street stops of the people creating "the most problems" there.

"The problem was, what, male blacks," Inspector McCormack said. "And I told you at roll call, and I have no problem telling you this, male blacks 14 to 20, 21."

The conversation was played on the fourth day of a class-action lawsuit covering several million stop-and-frisk encounters in the city.

The question of what commanders mean by "the right people" is central to the trial.

...At first, Inspector McCormack can be heard lecturing Officer Serrano about how "99 percent of these people in this community are great, hardworking people" who deserve to go about their days in peace. But the citizens, he said, were troubled by crime, and he went on to describe how a woman in her 60s was shot coming out of an elevator at 10 a.m.

Pressed by the officer on what he meant, Inspector McCormack offered examples of people who should not be stopped, like an elderly person violating a parks rule by playing chess. He also cited the stop of a 48-year-old woman who was intercepted on her way to work as she took a shortcut through a park that was closed for the night.

The inspector continued, "The problem is that you don't know who to stop and how to stop."

<http://publiceditor.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/03/29/an-officers-secretly-recorded-words-about-stop-and-frisk-cause-a-firestorm/>

## ***Deconstruct this story using all steps of the guide***

# Indiana girl's public suicide and heartbreaking note sparks anti-bullying legislation in the state

Angel Green hanged herself and left a note to her mother that said, 'It's bullying that killed me. Please get justice.'

BY SASHA GOLDSTEIN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013, 5:07 PM

By the bus stop, they found their Angel hanging from a tree.

On her bed at home, for her stricken mother to find, the 14-year-old Indiana girl left a note that read, in part, "Why did I deserve this pain?"

The heartbreaking suicide last month of West Lafayette's Angel Green has now led to anti-bullying legislation at the state's capital.

Green was an 8th-grader, who hanged herself March 5. The note she left behind — penned in a careful hand and addressed to her classmates — pointed clearly to the growing menace of bullying.

Indiana mother Danielle Green took her daughter's plea "to get justice" straight to the legislature.

"Have you ever thought about what you said to me? huh... maybe not! because you killed me everyday," she wrote, leaving the note beside her bed for her mother.

"P.S.," the note ends, "it's bullying that killed me. Please get justice."

Angel Green's suicide note points the finger at bullying to which she was subjected. She's pushing for passage of House Bill 1423, targeted at making schools accountable for bullying. It would require them to note and report such incidents in an annual report, WRTV-TV reported.

The bill has passed the state's House and will go before the Senate for a vote.

Angel Green said her suicide was from bullying.

"I want the schools to have more training and I want the kids and everybody to have support and resources for how to handle it," Green said as she visited the statehouse in support of the bill.

Such legislation, Green believes, could prevent further suicides. Her daughter had long been bullied by her classmates.

"They called her whore, slut and countless names, and told her she was worthless," Green said. "She did this before the bus was going to be there so her bullies would see her."

Green was joined Wednesday by other mothers, including Lana Swoape, who lost her daughter Tori, 15, to suicide in May.

"You told me so much that I started believing it," she wrote on a piece of notebook paper. "And I was stupid for doing that. Every morning, day, night I look in the mirror and cry, and replay the harmful words in my head."

*How reliable are the sources, based on an IMVAIN analysis?*

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*Does the reporter open the freezer?*

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*What can you conclude from this report?*

## What Can You Conclude: Is Thomas Beattie Pregnant or not?

### Pregnant man is expecting baby in July



March 27, 2008  
The ADVOCATE Magazine  
By COMBINED NEWS SERVICE  
An Oregon transgendered man who used to be a woman says he is five-months pregnant.. Thomas Beattie, who's expecting a girl, tells his story in a first-person account published in "The Advocate" magazine. Beattie is legally a male and lives with his wife, Nancy.

He claims to have stopped taking his testosterone injections to get pregnant, and that conception was achieved through home insemination.

"Sterilization is not a requirement for sex reassignment, so I decided to have chest reconstruction and testosterone therapy but kept my reproductive rights," he writes in the article for the gay and lesbian magazine. "How does it feel to be a pregnant man? Incredible," he adds. "Despite the fact that my belly is growing with a new life inside me, I am stable and confident being the man that I am."

Beattie is expected to give birth in July.

*How many sources are used?*

*Are they reliable? Why or why not?*

*Does the reporter place the story in context?*

*What is missing from this story?*



***Deconstruct this story using all steps of the guide***

# College Costs Keep Rising, Report Says

By TAMAR LEWIN

*The New York Times*

The price of a college education rose substantially last year, despite a 2.1 percent decline in the [Consumer Price Index](#) from July 2008 to July 2009.

Hit hard by state budget cuts, four-year public colleges raised tuition and fees by an average of 6.5 percent last year. Prices at private colleges rose 4.4 percent, according to a [report](#) issued Tuesday by the [College Board](#).

Patrick Callan, president of the [National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education](#), called the increases “hugely disappointing.”

“Given the financial hardship of the country, it’s simply astonishing that colleges and universities would have this kind of increases,” Mr. Callan said. “It tells you that higher education is still a seller’s market. The level of debt we’re asking people to undertake is unsustainable.

“A lot of people think we can solve the problem with more financial aid, but I think we have to have some cost containment. For all the talk about reinventing higher education, I don’t see any results.”

With room and board, the average total cost of attendance at a public four-year college is now \$15,213, the report found. At private nonprofit colleges, which enroll about one in five college students nationally, the average total cost of attendance is now \$35,636.

Over the last 30 years, college costs have risen steadily, especially at four-year public universities, once considered the affordable route to higher education. At such universities, the last decade’s increases, adjusted for inflation, have been the steepest. At private universities and public two-year institutions, the rate of increase has slowed over the last decade. The 4.4 percent rise in tuition at private colleges last year, for example, was smaller than in past years, when it has been about 6 percent.

In releasing the figures, the College Board, a membership organization made up of schools, colleges, universities and education organizations, put a bright face on the issue. Sandy Baum, the senior policy analyst who wrote the report, “Trends in College Pricing 2009,” said the findings were not as bad as they might have been, since in times of recession, tuition increases are often “really, really steep.”

Ms. Baum emphasized that it was important for families to understand that only about a third of students pay the published tuition, or sticker price. Most pay a lower net cost because they get some kind of assistance, whether in the form of a scholarship from the university, a federal Pell grant or state aid.

Nonetheless, Ms. Baum acknowledged that over time, the costs trends at four-year public universities have been troubling.

“From 1979 to 1989, the annual rate adjusted for inflation was 3 percent,” she said, “the next decade was 4 percent, and the most recent decade 5 percent. So the trend was exacerbated in recent years.”

Public universities have been forced to raise tuition largely because state governments, facing huge budget shortfalls, have reduced spending on higher education. But many education experts said colleges must do a better job of cutting costs.

“Colleges need to be looking for ways to permanently restructure, not just cut their budgets,” said Jane Wellman, executive director of the [Delta Project on Postsecondary Costs, Productivity and Accountability](#). “A perfect example is furloughs, in hopes that eventually the work force can come back. But this isn’t a one-time problem, and eventually they’ll have to bite the bullet and reduce their work force.”

About two-thirds of full-time undergraduates receive grants, according to “[Trends in Student Aid 2009](#),” a companion College Board report by Ms. Baum that was also released Tuesday. And grant aid, especially Pell grants, has been growing.

Taking into account both grant aid and tax credits and deductions, Ms. Baum said, the situation looks far less dire.

“The really interesting thing to me,” she said, “is if you look at net prices students pay, considering the grant aid and tax benefits, students at public two-year institutions are actually paying less, in inflation-adjusted dollars. And that’s pretty significant. Even though the sticker price, adjusting for inflation, is up 20 percent in the past five years, the net price is actually lower than it was five years ago.”

But with college costs so high, borrowing is increasing as well. Although grant aid rose significantly in the 2008-9 school year, the latest year for which data are available, student borrowing — and the gap between available resources and the overall cost of attending college — continued to increase, the report said.

The borrowing has changed, though, with a significant shift away from private loans as the credit markets froze and federal loans expanded. According to the new report, total education borrowing increased 5 percent from 2007-8 to 2008-9, the report said, but private loans declined by about half last year, to about \$11 billion, while federal loans increased by about \$15 billion.

Last year, the average grant aid per student was \$5,041, with the largest amounts coming from colleges and universities and the federal government.

At public four-year colleges, the report found, two-thirds of the grant money is given as merit aid, that is, without considering the recipient’s financial need.

“It is particularly disturbing that public colleges are using such a large share of their financial aid resources for so-called merit aid in these tough times,” said Lauren Asher, president of the Institute for College Access and Success.

This year, the report found, full-time students at private, nonprofit four-year institutions — those with the most expensive tuition — are receiving about \$14,400 in grant aid and federal tax benefits, reducing their net tuition and fees to about \$11,900, from the published \$26,300.

Full-time students at public four-year colleges and universities receive an estimated average of about \$5,400 in grant aid and federal tax benefits, reducing their net tuition and fees to about \$1,600, from the published \$7,000.

And full-time students at public two-year colleges actually get an average \$3,000 in grant aid and tax benefits — enough to pay the average \$2,500 tuition and fees and still have \$500 left toward living expenses.

### **The Deconstruction Method**

1. Summarize the main points and then check: Does the headline and the lead support the main point(s) of the story?
2. How close does the reporter come to opening the freezer? Is the evidence direct or “arm’s-length?”
3. Evaluate the reliability of the sources using **I’M VA/IN**:
  - ✓ **I**ndependent sources are better than self-interested sources.
  - ✓ **M**ultiple sources are better than a single source.
  - ✓ Sources who **V**erify are better than sources who assert: “I know” vs. “I believe”
  - ✓ **A**uthoritative/**I**nformed sources are better than uninformed sources.
  - ✓ **N**amed sources are better than unnamed sources
4. Does the reporter make his or her work transparent?
5. Does the reporter place the story in context?
6. Are the key questions answered?
7. Is the story fair?