

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



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 732 microsieverts per hour was recorded at the plant's main gate at 2 p.m. (JST) on Thursday.
The reading was 336 microsieverts per hour. That level was still much higher than it should be, but was not dangerous, and that by comparison a dose of 400 was normal from being outside over the course of a year, Ohmura said.
(Reporting by Terri) James

CENTER FOR NEWS LITERACY

DECONSTRUCTION WORKBOOK

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Nonetheless,
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"From 1979
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Asked what sort of danger the snake
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News of the Egyptian cobra's capture
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Breheny... "Maybe we'll do some spe

Are the key questions answered? Wh

Find an example of direct evidence and circle it.

Characterize Tetsuo Ohmura as a source, using T.M. YARN.

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 component parts of a news report.

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.

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

Foreclosure freeze could put security clearances at risk

By Dina ElBoghdady and Dana Hedgpeth
Washington Post Staff Writers
Wednesday, October 20, 2010; 2:31 PM

The sudden moratorium on many foreclosures across the country is unexpectedly putting some federal workers and contractors at jeopardy of losing their security clearance because of the heightened uncertainty clouding their finances, according to lawyers who handle these cases.

Employees with security clearances are monitored by the government to see whether they have financial problems that that would make them vulnerable to bribery or blackmail. And with many financial companies adopting some form of foreclosure freeze in recent weeks, it's taking longer for some delinquent borrowers to resolve their mortgage cases and put their troubles behind them, lawyers said.

This problem is especially acute in the Washington region, home to nearly a third of the nation's 854,000 employees with top-secret clearances.

"Getting to the bottom of resolving debt is more complicated when the lenders are in paralysis," said Dennis Sysko, a national security lawyer in Glen Burnie. "The longer it is unresolved, the longer the cloud remains."

Lawyers in the Washington area said they are starting to field inquiries about foreclosure delays from workers who have security clearances or are trying to get them. Many don't know whether they should be elated or concerned about the turn of events.

Find the headline and the "lead." Do they support the main point of the story?

The “Delayed Lead” and Analyzing Journalistic Evidence

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

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 cell phone 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 cell phone 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.

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, but occasionally a reporter starts with some scene-setting or an anecdote, but quickly follows up with a “lead” that tells you where the story is going.

-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

Opening The Freezer

California suppressed consultant's report on inmate suicides

The report warned that California's prison suicide-watch practices encouraged inmate deaths. Gov. Brown has said the state's prison care crisis is over.

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 "antitherapeutic." 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 of the reporter opening the freezer.
How does this kind of evidence strengthen the report?*

Opening The Freezer

In Leaked Video, Egyptian Army Officers Debate How to Sway News Media

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
Published: October 3, 2013

CAIRO — A leaked video of senior Egyptian Army officers debating how to influence the news media during the months preceding the military takeover offers a rare glimpse of the anxiety within the institution at the prospect of civilian oversight.

In the leaked six-minute clip of a private meeting led by Gen. Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi in the period before his July 3 ouster of President Mohamed Morsi, the officers express their dismay at public scrutiny of the army, unknown in Egypt until after the 2011 uprising. Calling even mildly disrespectful news coverage “dangerous” and abnormal, the officers call for a restoration of “red lines” that had protected the military for decades. And they urge General Sisi to pressure the roughly two dozen big media owners into “self-censorship.”

Mixing humor and cool confidence, General Sisi tells the officers that they must adjust to the new reality of public and parliamentary oversight, but he also counsels patience while he recruits allies in the news media.

“Building a statewide alliance takes a long time and effort,” he continues. “It takes a very long time until you possess an appropriate share of influence over the media.”

“The revolution has dismantled all the shackles that were present — not just for us, not just for the military, but for the entire state,” he says at another point. “The rules and the shackles were dismantled, and they are being rearranged.”

The officers’ winter uniforms and references to last December’s constitutional referendum suggest the meeting took place around that time. But the conversation foreshadowed the broad media crackdown that has played out since the military takeover. The new government has shut down Islamist television networks and the main newspaper supporting Mr. Morsi, and the police have arrested several journalists perceived as critical of the government or the military. And for whatever reason, privately owned newspapers and satellite networks now resound with cheers for the army and demonization of its Islamist opponents, just as the officers hoped.

The leak of the video, though, may raise different alarms. The clip was one of several snippets of the same meeting released Wednesday night and Thursday by RNN, an Islamist Web site, and in an interview, its acting director, Amr Farrag, said the material was obtained from “sources inside the military.” Military officials said Thursday that the army was starting an investigation.

Analysts said the video offered insights into motivations that might have helped propel the military’s takeover. “It betrays a real fear of what democratic discourse might look like and what that would mean for the military, in terms of what might be talked about and what might be exposed,” said Michael Wahid Hanna, a researcher on Egypt at the Century Foundation in New York.

*Circle any examples of the reporter opening the freezer.
How does this kind of evidence strengthen the report?*

Evaluating Sources

Afghan investigator: US burning of Qurans was intentional



KABUL -- The burning of copies of the Quran at an American base in Afghanistan was intentional, said a member of the team investigating the incident that triggered widespread and deadly anti-Western protests.

"We believe it is intentional," Maulavi Khaliqdad, a member of the panel established by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, told Deutsche Presse-Agentur on Monday. "If they burnt one or two copies, then we could have said it could have been a mistake. But they took hundreds of such books to burn. Everyone

knew those were religious books."

While the United States said that burning copies of the Muslim holy book last month at Bagram airfield was unintentional, the incident sparked violence that killed 30, including American troops shot by Afghan soldiers.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was "revenge" for the Quran burning, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a text message to media according to Reuters.

Doubts are growing that the United States and Afghanistan could narrow sharp differences in negotiations and reach a long-term strategic partnership deal.

The Strategic Partnership Agreement, which Washington and Kabul have been discussing for over a year, will be the framework for U.S. involvement in Afghanistan beyond 2014, when the last foreign combat troops are due to leave Afghanistan.

Find an example of direct evidence and circle it.

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Maulavi Khaliqdad using the IM'VAIN worksheet.

After completing your source evaluation answer the following question:

What weight do you give his investigation's findings? Why?

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Maulavi Khaliqdad*

Independent

Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Does the evidence support the conclusion?

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. Evidence is always evidence of something. What are people saying the evidence in this story is evidence of? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Indirect Evidence and Drawing Conclusions

6 September 2013 Last updated at 12:04 ET



Remote control helicopter kills teenager in NYC park

A New York teenager has been killed when the toy remote control helicopter he was flying struck him in the head.

Roman Pirozek Jr, 19, was pronounced dead at a park in New York City's Brooklyn borough where hobbyists often fly remote control aircraft.

Police said reports suggested Pirozek was killed when the helicopter's blades struck his head and neck.

His death is thought to be only the second ever from a toy remote control helicopter in the US.

Police told the New York Daily News that Pirozek had apparently been attempting a stunt when something went wrong and the helicopter fell and hit him.

"The major vessels in his neck were involved and he just bled out very quickly," an emergency worker told the newspaper.

While police did not release the model of the helicopter Pirozek was flying at the time of the accident, an online video uploaded in July by someone with Pirozek's name showed an Align T-Rex 700N DFC flying at high speeds.

Rich Hanson, spokesman for the Academy of Model Aeronautics in Indiana told the Associated Press news agency that model was in the larger range of remote control helicopters and has a blade span of nearly 4.5ft (1.4m).

Mr Hanson said the teenager's death may have been only the second ever caused by a remote control helicopter in the US.

*Find an example of indirect evidence and circle it.
What can you conclude from the indirect evidence?*

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Rich Hanson using the IM'VAIN worksheet.

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Rich Hanson*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Does the evidence support the conclusion?

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.

What conclusions are made? Could one come to a different conclusion? Is there a problem in the reasoning?

Evaluating Sources



[Home](#) > [U.S.](#)

New York Tour Bus Crash Kills 14 in New York

Tour Bus Split in Half After Being Clipped by Truck

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.

What is asserted?

What kind of evidence is used to verify the death toll?

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Paul Browne, Raymond Kelly, Ashanti Jackson, Shamel Bookard using the IM'VAIN worksheet.

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Paul Browne*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Raymond Kelly*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Ashanti Jackson*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Shamel Bookard*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Anonymous Sources, Evidence, and Opening the Freezer

October 8, 2010, 11:05 am

Cake Man Raven Closed by Health Department

By [BRENDEN BECK](#), Community Contributor, *The Local*, a Times/CUNY blog



Citing four “critical” sanitary violations, the New York City Department of Health closed [Cake Man Raven Confectionery](#), the Fulton Street bakery famous for its red velvet cake and celebrity connections on Wednesday.

A handwritten sign told customers that Cake Man Raven Confectionery was out of cakes.

Passersby may not have noticed the two bright yellow Health Department signs pasted to the shop’s front doors Thursday night, which read “Notice: Closed.” That’s because two large plants obstructed the signs. More prominently displayed was a handwritten sign that read “Sorry for inconvenience, cakes sold out for today.”

The Health Department Web site lists violations including: Food from unapproved or unknown source, flies present, lack of a hand washing facility near the food preparation area and toilet room, and the supervisor of operations lacking a food protection certificate.

The shop, which sells cake baked at another facility, did not have running water, according to a statement released by the Health Department.

The recent problems started at the beginning of the month, before the health inspection, said one employee, who did not want to be identified by name for fear of losing the job.

“Cake Man was late on his water bill, and because of that we weren’t able to flush the toilets or wash our hands,” said the employee. The employee also recalled problems from [last month’s health inspection](#) that have yet to be remedied: “Our permit wasn’t renewed, our certificates saying we were allowed to handle food were fake.”

The store has often been late to pay its staff in the last few months, the employee said.

“Since the end of July, our pay days have been very shifty,” said the employee. “They [management] always claim they don’t know who is in charge of paying us or when we’re getting paid. Sometimes we get paid by cash, and last time we got paid it was by check. It’s pretty random.”

We have discussed three elements to look for when weighing an anonymous source. Are all three found in this story? Based on your findings, how much weight do you give this anonymous source?

Identify an example of direct evidence.

How close does this reporter come to opening the freezer?

Anonymous Sources, Evaluating Sources, Drawing Conclusions

March 6, 2011

Criticism and Questions Over Plan to Move Macy's Thanksgiving Parade Out of Times Sq.

By NOAH ROSENBERG

Thanksgiving is a time of tradition: turkey, family and, for the past 84 years, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. In that regard, this year will be no different.

But in 2012, Macy's said this week, it will alter its parade route, bypassing Times Square and Seventh Avenue entirely. The departure has stoked the ire of some Times Square business owners and other stakeholders, who say the new route — along Avenue of the Americas — is at best a bland alternative to the flash of Times Square.

They also say the rerouting will have dire financial consequences for the hotels, retailers and advertisers who rely on the exposure that decades of Thanksgiving ritual has brought.

Jason Post, a spokesman for the mayor, said Tuesday that the rerouting was due to scheduled construction in “the bow tie area of Times Square,” and would be in effect through the 2013 parade. In 2014, Mr. Post said, the route will be “re-evaluated.”

But some critics are skeptical. A community leader who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preserve his publicly neutral stance, said he was at a meeting with Macy's representatives last year, at which the retailer “threatened to move the parade to another city,” unless the route changes were agreed upon.

The Macy's representatives, the community leader said, cited a need to appease NBC, the broadcast licensee of the parade, as a reason to alter the route.

On Tuesday, the parade spokesman for Macy's, Orlando Veras, confirmed the change and said in an e-mail that Macy's officials felt that Avenue of the Americas was “quite simply the safest route.” The e-mail also said, “NBC is not involved in any way in this change.”

“NBC gives them a huge amount of money,” the community leader said of Macy's, “and CBS, in the last few years, has covered the parade from Times Square,” using MTV Studios as a broadcast hub. “CBS doesn't give them a dime,” the official said.

The switch in the route would effectively cost CBS its bird's-eye view of the parade.

“So Macy's is protecting their own interests, and from their own point of view it makes sense,” the community leader said.

A CBS spokesman said the network declined to comment on the parade route change.

An NBC executive said that Macy's had been pushing for the move to Avenue of the Americas since the Times Square stretch of Broadway was turned into a pedestrian plaza, in 2009, and the original parade route down Broadway was switched to Seventh Avenue. The network, the executive said, had not been involved in the decision to move the route to Avenue of the Americas on its way to Herald Square.

Evaluate the anonymous source, using the three-part test outlined in lecture.

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Jason Post, Anonymous Community Leader, Orlando Veras, NBC Executive using the IM'VAIN worksheet.

What could you conclude from this story about the reasons for the move?

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Jason Post*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Anonymous Community Leader*

Independent				Self-Interested
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Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)				Lone/Solitary
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Explain:

Verifies				Asserts
-----------------	--	--	--	----------------

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed				Unauthoritative/Uninformed
-------------------------------	--	--	--	-----------------------------------

Explain:

Named				Anonymous
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Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.		Very Unreliable
		Somewhat Unreliable
		Somewhat Reliable
		Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Orlando Veras*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *NBC Executive*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Context

In the Shadow of ‘Old Smokey,’ a Toxic Legacy

By NICK MADIGAN

Published: September 22, 2013

MIAMI — When she was little, Elaine Taylor remembers rushing home whenever Old Smokey fired up. Clouds of ash from the towering trash incinerator would fill the air and settle on the ramshackle houses, drying laundry, and the yards of the West Grove neighborhood.

Old Smokey was shut down in 1970, after 45 years of belching ash, but its legacy might be more ominous than mere memories of soiled laundry. Residents of the neighborhood, established by Bahamian immigrants in the 1880s, have become alarmed by recent revelations that soil samples there show contamination from carcinogens like arsenic and heavy metals, including lead, cadmium and barium.

Ash from the old incinerator is being blamed, and residents are asking why none of this came to light sooner. Across the street from Old Smokey’s former site lies Esther Mae Armbrister Park and its playground. Down the block is George Washington Carver Elementary School.

Miami officials discovered contamination two years ago at the site of Old Smokey, now a training center for firefighters, but they did not alert residents of the area. A report on the findings remained under wraps until a city employee revealed its existence this year to a University of Miami law professor, Anthony V. Alfieri, who directs the law school’s Environmental Justice Project.

Once the presence of toxins was made public, officials scrambled to commission tests of soil samples in the immediate area. They later expanded the investigation to include 7 parks, 17 private properties, 4 churches and 12 green spaces in West Grove.

At a briefing for residents last week, Wilbur Mayorga, a Miami-Dade County environmental official, said testing results suggested that the amount of toxins in the West Grove sites was “unlikely to cause illness,” and that arsenic, for instance, can occur naturally in the area’s soil and limestone.

That may not be the final word. A cancer researcher at the University of Miami said that she and several colleagues discovered a cluster of pancreatic cancer cases in the West Grove several years ago. The researcher noted that no correlation could be established between the cancer cluster and the old incinerator without more research.

“There were a lot of people living around that thing — they were not protected,” said Marion Culmer Wright, 86, who remains in the dusty frame house where her parents married in 1917.

Circle any examples of context that you discover.

How do they enable you to make sense of the information in this report?

Context

UN rights expert urges US to end 'torture' of prisoner

Al Jazeera and wire services

October 7, 2013 2:01PM ET

The United Nations' special rapporteur on torture criticized the United States' use of solitary confinement in prisons Monday.

Special rapporteur Juan E. Mendez called on the U.S. to end the indefinite solitary confinement imposed on Albert Woodfox, who has been in solitary for over 40 years after being convicted of murdering a Louisiana prison guard.

Woodfox and two others were moved to isolation units at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, where they came to be known as the "Angola 3."

"Keeping Albert Woodfox in solitary confinement for more than four decades clearly amounts to torture, and it should be lifted immediately," Mendez said.

"The circumstances of the incarceration of the so-called Angola 3 clearly show that the use of solitary confinement in the U.S. penitentiary system goes far beyond what is acceptable under international human rights law," he added.

Herman Wallace, another member of the Angola 3, died Friday, less than a week after being released after more than 40 years in solitary confinement. Wallace, 71, had been diagnosed with terminal liver cancer and stopped receiving treatment.

The third member of the Angola 3, Robert King, who was convicted of murdering a fellow inmate in 1973, was released in 2001 after his conviction was overturned.

Mendez has made similar statements over the years to both the U.N. and U.S. government regarding the U.S.'s employment of solitary confinement, but this year's condemnation comes in the middle of continuing controversy.

In September, California inmates ended a nearly two-month hunger strike over the use of isolation cells. Although by the end of the strike the number of participants had dwindled to 100 inmates, there were 30,000 prisoners on hunger strike in July.

The protests ended after two Democratic state legislators, Senator Loni Hancock and Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, promised to hold public hearings this fall on inmates' allegations that gang leaders are often held for decades in isolation units.

Circle any examples of context that you discover.

How do they enable you to make sense of the information in this report?

Context and Transparency

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

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 make sense of the information in this report?*

Context

Obama's quarterly approval rating drops to 44.5%

David Jackson, USA TODAY

10:06 a.m. EDT October 21, 2013

President Obama's job approval rating for the past three months averaged 44.5%, a drop of more than three percentage points from the previous quarter, Gallup reports.

It's not the low point for Obama — he hit 41% in the third quarter of 2011 — but it's not a great trend either.

"After a relatively strong fourth year that included several quarters of higher ratings that aided his (2012) re-election, his approval rating has now declined in each of the last three quarters," Gallup reports.

Obama's 44.5% approval rating for the third quarter of 2013 -- running from July 20 to Oct. 19 — put him in the middle of the pack for recent presidents, Gallup notes:

"Three post-World War II presidents — Ronald Reagan, Dwight Eisenhower, and Bill Clinton — had significantly higher 19th quarter averages, all near 60%, than Obama.

"Two presidents had lower 19th quarter averages than Obama: Richard Nixon, whose 19th quarter came during the Watergate investigations, and Lyndon Johnson, attributable mostly to the increasingly unpopular Vietnam War.

"Obama's 19th quarter approval average is most similar to those of Harry Truman and George W. Bush."

Gallup also reports on Obama:

"The legislative battles over the federal budget and the Affordable Care Act, as well as the federal debt limit, took a toll on the president's popularity, with his Gallup daily approval rating falling to 41% at points during the shutdown.

"Obama did sign into law the Senate-brokered deal to end the government shutdown and raise the federal debt limit before the Oct. 17 deadline without also gutting the Affordable Care Act. The effect of those events on his popular support is not yet clear, but will be evident in the coming days of Gallup Daily tracking."

Circle any examples of context that you discover.

How do they enable you to make sense of the information in this report?

Transparency, Context, Evaluating Sources

Experts Had Long Criticized Potential Weakness in Design of Stricken Reactor

By TOM ZELLER Jr.

Published: March 15, 2011

The warnings were stark and issued repeatedly as far back as 1972: If the cooling systems ever failed at a “Mark 1” nuclear reactor, the primary containment vessel surrounding the reactor would probably burst as the fuel rods inside overheated. Dangerous radiation would spew into the environment.

Now, with one Mark 1 containment vessel **damaged** at the embattled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant and other vessels there under severe strain, the weaknesses of the design — developed in the 1960s by General Electric — could be contributing to the unfolding catastrophe.

When the ability to cool a reactor is **compromised**, the containment vessel is the last line of defense. Typically made of steel and concrete, it is designed to prevent — for a time — melting fuel rods from spewing radiation into the environment if cooling efforts completely fail.

In some reactors, known as pressurized water reactors, the system is sealed inside a thick steel-and-cement tomb. Most nuclear reactors around the world are of this type.

But the type of containment vessel and pressure suppression system used in the failing reactors at **Japan’s** Fukushima Daiichi plant is physically less robust, and it has long been thought to be more susceptible to failure in an emergency than competing designs. In the United States, 23 reactors at 16 locations use the Mark 1 design, including the Oyster Creek plant in central New Jersey, the Dresden plant near Chicago and the Monticello plant near Minneapolis.

In 1972, Stephen H. Hanauer, then a safety official with the Atomic Energy Commission, **recommended** that the Mark 1 system be discontinued because it presented unacceptable safety risks...(and) was more susceptible to explosion and rupture from a buildup in hydrogen — a situation that may have unfolded at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Later that same year, Joseph Hendrie, who would later become chairman of the **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**, a successor agency to the atomic commission, **said the idea of a ban on such systems was attractive**. But the technology had been so widely accepted by the industry and regulatory officials, he said, that “reversal of this hallowed policy, particularly at this time, could well be the end of nuclear power.”

In an e-mail on Tuesday, David Lochbaum, director of the Nuclear Safety Program at the Union for Concerned Scientists, said those words seemed ironic now, given the potential global ripples from the Japanese accident.

“Not banning them might be the end of nuclear power,” said Mr. Lochbaum, a nuclear engineer who spent 17 years working in nuclear facilities, including three that used the G.E. design.

Michael Tetuan, a spokesman for G.E.’s water and power division, staunchly defended the technology this week, calling it “the industry’s workhorse with a proven track record of safety and reliability for more than 40 years.”

Mr. Tetuan said there are currently 32 Mark 1 boiling-water reactors operating safely around the globe. “There has never been a breach of a Mark 1 containment system,” he said.

Does this reporter make his work transparent? Where? (Circle it.)

Identify an example of context and circle it. If it were not included, how would that change your understanding of the situation?

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Lochbaum, Tetuan, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Hendrie using the IM’VAIN worksheet.

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Lochbaum*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Tetuan*

Independent				
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				Self-Interested
--	--	--	--	------------------------

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)				
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				Lone/Solitary
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Explain:

Verifies				
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				Asserts
--	--	--	--	----------------

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed				
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				Unauthoritative/Uninformed
--	--	--	--	-----------------------------------

Explain:

Named				
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				Anonymous
--	--	--	--	------------------

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.		Very Unreliable
		Somewhat Unreliable
		Somewhat Reliable
		Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Union of Concerned Scientists*

Independent				Self-Interested
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Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)				Lone/Solitary
--------------------------------	--	--	--	----------------------

Explain:

Verifies				Asserts
-----------------	--	--	--	----------------

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed				Unauthoritative/Uninformed
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Explain:

Named				Anonymous
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Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.		Very Unreliable
		Somewhat Unreliable
		Somewhat Reliable
		Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Hendrie*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Transparency and Context

Possible Clues in Fatal Chase, but No Motive

By N. R. KLEINFELD and WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM

Published: October 4, 2013

The woman who was shot to death after a taut, high-speed car chase through the streets between the White House and Capitol Hill was still in her car, snagged on the curb of a grass-covered median, when the police fired at her, a Senate official said on Friday.

Terrance W. Gainer, the Senate sergeant-at-arms, who was briefed on aspects of the episode, said the woman, Miriam Carey, was trying to make a U-turn between a United States Capitol Police security booth and some planters in the middle of the street on Constitution Avenue when Capitol Police officers and uniformed Secret Service officers shot at the car with semiautomatic pistols.

Ms. Carey, 34, was a dental hygienist who lived in Stamford, Conn. Law enforcement officials said on Friday that investigators found antipsychotic medications in her apartment, potential clues to her actions. Friends and relatives, while portraying her as harmless, also recounted some bizarre behavior.

After collecting items from the Stamford apartment and interviewing friends and relatives, law enforcement authorities were still trying to understand what prompted her to drive to Washington and what she hoped to accomplish when she tried to force her way onto the White House grounds.

Questions were also being raised about whether she posed enough of a threat during the fast-moving sequence of events that the police needed to shoot her.

Initially, Ms. Carey was thought to have gotten out of the car when she was shot on Thursday afternoon. Early accounts of such events are often inaccurate, however, and on Friday, new details emerged about the shooting and the woman who was killed.

Most police departments discourage or prohibit opening fire on vehicles. With responsibility for safeguarding two of the county's most significant landmarks, however, the Capitol Police and the Secret Service are particularly attuned to potential terrorist threats.

Car bombs are one concern, as evidenced by the restrictions on vehicles around the Capitol complex, and officials said that by remaining in the car, Ms. Carey might have heightened fears that the car was an explosive threat. No firearms or explosives were found on her or in her car.

Many police departments, including Washington's, prohibit officers from firing at moving cars, even when the car is being used in a threatening manner. The Metropolitan Police rules say that no officer shall discharge a firearm "at or from a moving vehicle unless deadly force is being used against the officer or another person," and it notes, "For purposes of this order, a moving vehicle is not considered deadly force." It is not clear whether the Secret Service or the Capitol Police have a similar policy.

Others who study law enforcement said the rules might legitimately be different for officials in Washington.

Circle any examples of transparency and context that you discover.

How do they enable you to make sense of the information in this report? Is the context controversial?

Analyzing Journalistic Evidence, Evaluating Sources



NYDailyNews.com

DAILY NEWS

Gillibrand on short list for 2016 presidential contenders

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 conclusions drawn by sources and circle. Are the conclusions properly supported by the evidence?

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Larry Sabato using the IM'VAIN worksheet.

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Larry Sabato*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Evaluating Sources, Transparency, Context

Accused G.I. ‘Snapped’ Under Strain, Official Says

By ERIC SCHMITT and WILLIAM YARDLEY

WASHINGTON — The American staff sergeant suspected of killing 16 Afghan villagers had been drinking alcohol — a violation of military rules in combat zones — and suffering from the stress related to his fourth combat tour and tensions with his wife about the deployments on the night of the massacre, a senior American official said Thursday.

“When it all comes out, it will be a combination of stress, alcohol and domestic issues — he just snapped,” said the official, who has been briefed on the investigation and who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the soldier has not yet been formally charged. His comments drew from accounts of the sergeant’s state of mind from two other soldiers with whom he illicitly drank alcohol on the night of the shootings, the official said, and those soldiers face disciplinary action.

As new details emerged about possible reasons behind the shootings, a lawyer who said he had been retained by the sergeant’s family, John Henry Browne, held a news conference in Seattle on Thursday and also spoke to some reporters individually. He told The Associated Press that the day before the massacre, a friend of the sergeant had lost a leg in an explosion. That could not be independently confirmed.

The comments by the lawyer, and the account by the American official, confirmed by a senior official at the Pentagon, are the most detailed descriptions so far of the state of the sergeant, a 38-year-old married father of two who was on his first combat tour in Afghanistan but his fourth overall, including three in Iraq, since he enlisted in 2001.

Mr. Browne said it was “nonsense” that there were exceptional marital tensions. “I know that is not true,” he said at a news conference at his office Thursday night in Seattle.

Mr. Browne added that the inaccuracy of the claim made him “suspicious” of the suggestion that alcohol and stress contributed, though he noted that virtually anyone at a remote base in Afghanistan would be under stress.

Mr. Browne said the soldier suffered a concussion during a vehicle rollover accident caused by a roadside bomb. He also lost part of a foot in another episode.

Mr. Browne criticized anonymous reports from government officials, calling them baseless. “The government is going to want to blame this on an individual rather than blame it on the war,” he said. Mr. Browne told The A.P. that the sergeant’s family said he had “never said anything antagonistic about Muslims.”

The sergeant has refused to speak to investigators, invoking his right to a lawyer shortly after he surrendered on returning to his base after the shootings.

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Anonymous American Official and John Henry Browne using the IM’VAIN worksheet.

Do the reporters make their work transparent? Explain

Does the reporter place the story in context? If so, circle the appropriate section

Based on these answers, how reliable do you think this report is?

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Anonymous American Official*

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *John Henry Browne*

Independent				Self-Interested
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Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)				Lone/Solitary
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Explain:

Verifies				Asserts
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Explain:

Authoritative/Informed				Unauthoritative/Uninformed
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Explain:

Named				Anonymous
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Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.		Very Unreliable
		Somewhat Unreliable
		Somewhat Reliable
		Very Reliable

Explain:

Sourcing and Context

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 Beatie, who's expecting a girl, tells his story in a first-person account published in "The Advocate" magazine.

Beatie 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."

Beatie 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?

Key Questions



The New York Times

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?

Fairness and Key Questions

GOP voters' passion uneven for Romney, Santorum

By ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

Mitt Romney may lead in delegates and Rick Santorum might have momentum, but neither of the two leading Republican presidential candidates is having an easy time exciting even his own voters.

Out of a dozen states where voters in the GOP contest have been polled, most Romney voters have said they strongly favor him in just five of them. A majority of Santorum voters felt that committed to him only four times out of 11 states where he was on the ballot and voters were surveyed.

Each man is struggling to consistently spark the intensity that could separate him from the pack.

Consider that Arizona is the only state where Romney had a higher proportion of voters expressing strong feelings about him than his rivals did. And Santorum hasn't had that edge in any state yet, despite an animated campaign style and passion for hot-button social issues like contraception that have contrasted with Romney's stiffer, more analytic manner.

On average, 50 percent of Romney voters and 49 percent of Santorum's say they strongly favor their candidate, with the rest expressing reservations about their man or a greater dislike for his rivals, according to entrance and exit polls of voters in 12 states.

Republican operatives express concern about Romney and Santorum. They say the figures raise questions about how quickly the GOP will be able to end its drawn-out slugfest and begin generating voter enthusiasm for a nominee to challenge President Barack Obama in November.

"At this point in the game, you should be drawing the troops toward you. The intensity about you should be pretty strong," said Mike McKenna, a Republican consultant not working for any of the contenders.

Political professionals generally consider intensity of support a key ingredient to a winning campaign. Such enthusiasm can help pave the way for everything from yard signs to campaign contributions to voters who show up on Election Day.

"Motivation is the name of the game in trying to get people to the polls," said Josh Putnam, a political scientist at Davidson University. "It makes campaigns' work easier if they can bank some votes, so to speak."

The data comes from surveys of voters conducted for The Associated Press and the television networks by Edison Research in 12 states that have held GOP contests.

In the interest of fairness, should this story be balanced? Explain.

Are the key questions all answered in this story? List any missing information:

Fairness

Recording Points to Race Factor in Stops by New York Police

By JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN

Published: March 21, 2013 | 149 Comments

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."

Is the headline and story fair to Inspector McCormack? Explain.

Assertions, Fairness and Context



Chances Are 'Pink Slime' Is In Grocery Store Beef, Too

If you're trying to determine whether the ground chuck you buy in the grocery store contains so-called pink slime, or lean beef trimmings, you won't find it on the ingredient list.

"It's not required to be labeled," explains Don Schaffner, a food scientist at Rutgers University.

An estimated 70 percent of the ground beef supply contains these lean bits of meat derived from muscle and connective tissue. The industry calls the trimmings Lean Finely Textured Beef.

With Thursday's USDA announcement giving schools the options to order beef that does not include these trimmings, and the publicity over the online petition initiated by The Lunch Tray blogger Bettina Siegel, which quickly drew more than 200,000 signatures, it's clear that there's a lot of disgust over the concept of pink slime. And with a name like this, how could there not be?

But Schaffner says the suggestion of an ooey, gooey liquid is deceiving. Lost in the social-media outrage, he says, is the understanding that lean beef trimmings are a way of taking fatty bits of meat and extracting the lean part.

"What the process does is take the mostly fat trimmings and heat them up so the fat becomes a liquid," explains Schaffner, "and then uses a process to separate the lean portion from the fat portion."

The safety concerns stem from reports that the lean beef trimmings are likely to harbor pathogens, such as E. coli or Salmonella and other bacteria. And Schaffner, who has worked as a consultant to the meat industry, says this is true. "The bacteria risk comes from the fact that these are pieces that are being cut away from the outside of the meat, and that's where the bacteria are likely to be."

The industry recognizes this, and has adopted a practice of treating the meat trimmings with a gas made of ammonium hydroxide. This kills the pathogen, but according to critics, even if it solves one problem, it creates another. They say using ammonium hydroxide is gross, and they worry about its safety. The American Meat Institute defends the practice. "This is not the same ammonia you'd use in cleaning supplies," explains Betsy Booren of the AMI Foundation. "It's a gas, it's a different compound, and it's a well-established processing intervention that has a long history of success."

But consumer sentiment has been turning against meat treated with ammonium hydroxide for a while. In January 2011, McDonald's announced that it would no longer use ammonia-treated beef in its burgers. And other fast-food chains, including Taco Bell and Burger King, have made similar decisions.

List the assertions you find.

Is the story fair to meat producers? To the evidence? Explain.

What example(s) of context do you find?

Deconstruct This Story (See Last Page of Workbook)

Profiling Complaints by Black Shoppers Followed Changes to Stores' Security Policies

By J. DAVID GOODMAN

Published: October 29, 2013

Several months ago, a meeting was convened at Barneys New York to discuss a growing problem: A significant amount of inventory was being lost to theft. Something had to be done.

A new security management team instituted a more aggressive loss prevention strategy. Security personnel said they were encouraged to “take chances” in stopping suspicious customers, even if it meant intercepting innocent people. Bad grabs, they said they were told, were part of the business.

The number of contacts with the Police Department, made when security workers suspected a person had been shoplifting or engaging in credit card fraud, soon jumped drastically.

But along with the increase in cases, complaints began to surface from black shoppers who said they were victims of racial profiling in the store, on Madison Avenue. At least one shopper has filed a lawsuit against Barneys, and another plans to.

The lawsuits, which came to light last week and landed on the front page of The Daily News, attracted national attention for their allegations of race- and class-based discrimination. The suits raised criticism not only of Barneys, but of celebrity figures, like Jay-Z, who has a partnership with the store. They have also led to an inquiry by the state attorney general, Eric T. Schneiderman, and on Tuesday there was an unlikely meeting of the Rev. Al Sharpton and the Barneys chief executive, Mark Lee.

Across town, at the flagship Macy's store at Herald Square, at least two black shoppers, one of them the actor Robert Brown, of the HBO series “Treme,” have said they were similarly stopped this year by the police after, they said, store security workers deemed their purchases suspicious. Mr. Schneiderman's inquiry also includes Macy's.

None of those who have come forward to say they were detained by the police were charged with any crime.

The accusations were particularly troublesome for Macy's, which, in 2005, reached an agreement with the state attorney general's office to amend its security practices after investigators found black and Hispanic shoppers were disproportionately stopped on suspicion of shoplifting. That agreement ended in 2008. This year, said an official familiar with the current investigation who was not permitted to comment publicly on its details, the state attorney general has received close to a dozen complaints from shoppers who said they had been profiled by security officers at Macy's.

In the case of Barneys, the official said, the state attorney general is investigating allegations of similar treatment in cases besides the two shoppers pursuing litigation.

“It has come to our office's attention that there are problems with what is now called ‘shop and frisk’ with some major stores in New York,” Mr. Schneiderman said at a news conference in Buffalo on Tuesday.

Mr. Schneiderman said the investigation would look at the policies in the stores as well as the relationship between store security officers and the New York Police Department. Both Macy's and Barneys have denied involvement in the episodes of detention of shoppers that have come to light.

“In both of these instances, no one from Barneys New York raised any issue with these purchases,” Mr. Lee said on Tuesday, after emerging from his meeting with Mr. Sharpton in Harlem. “No one from Barneys brought them to the attention of our internal security, and no one from Barneys reached out to external authorities.”

The Police Department disputed that account. In both cases, “N.Y.P.D. officers were conducting unrelated investigations and took action based on information brought to their attention by Barneys employees while in the security room,” said John J. McCarthy, the department's chief spokesman.

At the center of the dispute at Barneys are two young black shoppers: Trayon Christian, 19, who has filed suit against the store and the city in State Supreme Court; and Kayla Phillips, 21, who filed a notice of intent to sue.

In his suit, Mr. Christian said the trouble occurred on April 29 after he bought a Salvatore Ferragamo belt with his Chase debit card. Several blocks away on Fifth Avenue, he said, he was stopped by plainclothes police officers.

The officers questioned his ability to pay for the belt, valued at about \$350, and said the debit card must have been a fake, according to the suit. Mr. Christian was handcuffed and taken to the 19th Precinct station house where he was held, according to the suit, for about two hours before being freed.

Ms. Phillips described being “stopped, frisked, searched and detained” by the police at the store after a purchase at Barneys of a handbag valued at over \$2,000.

Both stops, as well as two more related to shoppers at Macy’s, were being investigated by the Police Department’s Internal Affairs Bureau, Mr. McCarthy said.

The security changes Barneys put into effect were detailed by Raymel Cardona, a former assistant manager for loss prevention at the store, and a former plainclothes security guard, Aaron Argueta, 36. Both men were fired from Barneys, and intend to challenge their dismissals with federal employment authorities, said their lawyer, J. Patrick DeLince.

Aspects of their accounts were supported by Nafeesa Baptiste, a former sales associate of five years, who said she had increasingly found herself and her black customers — some of them well-known musicians and actors — followed by plainclothes security guards “from floor to floor.”

She added that security agents frequently sought copies of receipts, in one case after a substantial cash transaction. “Because I had mostly men of color, it happened often to me,” said Ms. Baptiste, 35.

She quit Barneys last month and has reported workplace harassment to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Representatives of Barneys strongly disputed the accounts of the former workers. Charlotte Blechman, the executive vice president for communications, described the two men as “disgruntled former employees,” and singled out Mr. Argueta for installing a “bed and workout barbell in a company closet and sleeping on the job in the store multiple times.” Mr. Cardona, his supervisor, was also “fired for cause,” she said.

Deconstruct this story by answering the questions in the Deconstruction Guide

Deconstruct This Story (See Last Page of Workbook)**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.'

[Comments \(194\)](#)

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."

Deconstruct this story by answering the questions in the Deconstruction Guide

Deconstruct This Story (See Last Page of Workbook)**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.

Deconstruct this story by answering the questions in the Deconstruction Guide

Deconstruct This Story (See Last Page of Workbook)**WH money helps pay for NYPD Muslim surveillance****Associated Press**

WASHINGTON - Millions of dollars in White House money has helped pay for New York Police Department programs that put entire American Muslim neighborhoods under surveillance.

The money is part of a little-known grant intended to help law enforcement fight drug crimes. Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Bush and Obama administrations have provided \$135 million to the New York and New Jersey region through the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, known as HIDTA.

Some of that money — it's unclear exactly how much because the program has little oversight — has paid for the cars that plainclothes NYPD officers used to conduct surveillance on Muslim neighborhoods. It also paid for computers that store even innocuous information about Muslim college students, mosque sermons and social events.

When NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly was filled in on these efforts, his briefings were prepared on HIDTA computers.

The AP confirmed the use of White House money through secret police documents and interviews with current and former city and federal officials. The AP also obtained electronic documents with digital signatures indicating they were created and saved on HIDTA computers. The HIDTA grant program is overseen by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The disclosure that the White House is at least partially paying for the NYPD's wholesale surveillance of places where Muslims eat, shop, work and pray complicates efforts by the Obama administration to stay out of the fray over New York's controversial counterterrorism programs. The administration has championed outreach to American Muslims and has said law enforcement should not put entire communities under suspicion.

The Obama administration, however, has pointedly refused to endorse or repudiate the NYPD programs it helps pay for. The White House last week declined to comment on its grant payments.

John Brennan, Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, last year called the NYPD's efforts "heroic" but would not elaborate. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, whose department also gives grant money to the NYPD and is one of the lead federal agencies helping police build relationships with Muslims, has refused in recent months to discuss the police tactics. Tom Perez, the Justice Department's top civil rights lawyer, has repeatedly refused to answer questions about the NYPD.

Outside Washington, the NYPD's efforts drew increased criticism last week. College administrators at Yale, Columbia and elsewhere issued harsh rebukes for NYPD's infiltration of Muslim student groups and its monitoring of school websites. New Jersey's governor and the mayor of its largest city have complained about the NYPD's widespread surveillance there, outside New York's police jurisdiction.

The White House HIDTA grant program was established at the height of the drug war to help police fight drug gangs and unravel supply routes. It has provided about \$2.3 billion to local authorities in the past decade.

After the terror attacks, law enforcement was allowed to use some of that money to fight terrorism. It's unclear how much HIDTA money has been used to pay for the intelligence division, in part because NYPD intelligence operations receive scant oversight in New York.

Congress, which approves the money for the program, is not provided with a detailed breakdown of activities. None of the NYPD's clandestine programs is cited in the New York-New Jersey region's annual reports to Congress between 2006 and 2010.

NYPD spokesman Paul Browne did not respond to questions the AP sent to him in two emails about the White House money and the department's intelligence division.

Most of the money from the White House grants in New York and New Jersey has been spent fighting drugs, said Chauncey Parker, director of the program there. He said less than \$1.3 million was spent on vehicles used by the NYPD intelligence unit.

"Those cars are used to collect and analyze counterterrorism information with the goal of preventing a terrorist attack in New York City or anywhere else," Parker said. "If it's been used for specific counterterrorism effort, then it's been used to pay for those cars."

Former police officials told the AP those vehicles have been used to photograph mosques and record the license plates of worshippers.

In addition to paying for the cars, the White House money pays for part of the office space the intelligence division shares with other agencies in Manhattan.

When police compiled lists of Muslims who took new, Americanized names, they kept those records on HIDTA computer servers. That was ongoing as recently as October, city officials said.

Many NYPD intelligence officers, including those that conducted surveillance of Muslim neighborhoods, had HIDTA email addresses. Briefing documents for Kelly, the police commissioner, were compiled on HIDTA computers. Those documents described what police informants were hearing inside mosques and which academic conferences Muslim scholars attended.

When police wanted to pay a confidential informant, they were told to sign onto the HIDTA website to file the paperwork, according to a 2007 internal document obtained by the AP.

Parker said the White House grant money was never used to pay any of the NYPD intelligence division's confidential informants. The HIDTA computer systems, he said, are platforms that allow different law enforcement agencies to share information and work.

"I am shocked to hear that federal dollars may have helped finance the NYPD's misguided efforts to spy on Muslims in America," said Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., one of 34 members of Congress who have asked the Justice Department and House Judiciary Committee to investigate the NYPD.

The connection between NYPD and the White House anti-drug grant program surfaced years ago, during a long-running civil rights lawsuit against police. Civil rights attorneys asked in court about a "demonstration debriefing form" that police used whenever they arrested people for civil disobedience. The form carried the seal of both the NYPD Intelligence Division and HIDTA.

A city lawyer downplayed any connection. She said the NYPD and HIDTA not only shared office space, they also shared office supplies like paper. The NYPD form with the seal of a White House anti-drug program was "a recycled piece of paper that got picked up and modified," attorney Gail Donoghue told a federal judge in 2003.

The issue died in court and was never pursued further.

Last week, the controversy over NYPD's programs drew one former Obama administration official into the discussion.

After the AP revealed an extensive program to monitor Muslims in Newark, N.J., police there denied knowing anything about it. The Newark police director at the time, Garry McCarthy, has since moved on to lead Chicago's police department where President Barack Obama's first chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, is now the mayor.

"We don't do that in Chicago and we're not going to do that," Emanuel said last week.

Deconstruct This Story (See Last Page of Workbook)

College Costs Keep Rising, Report Says

By TAMAR LEWIN

The New York Times

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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.

Deconstruct this story by answering the questions in the Deconstruction Guide

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: _____

Independent

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

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?