Evaluating Current Events Coverage

News Story

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Ex. article headline, news segment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s) / Presenter(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publishing outlet</th>
<th>Ex. Name of news site, news show, publication, etc.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URL or database name, if relevant</td>
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Phase I: Vertical Reading

Use the Vertical Reading guidelines at libguides.dccc.edu/fakenews/test to answer the following questions about your news story:

Is the story **newsworthy**?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Which of the seven news values apply most to this story? Identify the elements of the story that exemplify each value you identify.</td>
<td>Which of the seven news values led you to determine that this story is not newsworthy? Identify the elements of the story that exemplify each value you identify.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What **type** of news story is it? _____________________________________________

Which attributes of that news story type apply most to this story? Identify the elements of the story that exemplify each attribute you identify.

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Based on its newsworthiness and news story type, is this **quality news**? ________________________________

Explain your reasoning. ____________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
Vertical reading is the first phase of news evaluation and refers to using information contained within the news story to preliminarily evaluate its quality.

The **purpose** of the vertical reading phase is to determine whether the news story is of high enough quality to evaluate further through lateral reading.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technique</th>
<th>Quality News</th>
<th>Fake News</th>
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</table>
| **Newsworthiness** | News judgment based on the Seven News Values | Is significant to the general public  
Is new, immediate, and current  
Is related to other current events or content; is covered by other news outlets  
Is needed or demanded by the public  
Is original reporting based on relevant, credible sources  
Adds value as information in the public interest  
Is objective; or, biases are identified and managed | Is insignificant to the public  
Is not new; does not address immediate or current events  
Is unrelated to other topics in the public interest; is not being covered by other news outlets  
Is not necessary or of interest to the public  
Is unoriginal or derived from prior reporting  
Adds no value in the public interest, or distracts from other important news  
Is influenced by an advertiser, politician, or other private interest; is biased |
| **News Story Type** | Analyze the rhetorical devices in a news story to determine its type | Hard News  
- Immediacy  
- Accuracy  
- Factual reporting in the inverted pyramid style  
- Relevance, significance, importance  
- General audience  
Soft News  
- Trendiness or timelessness  
- Provocative  
- Narrative emphasis on story-telling  
- Limited impact  
- Personal, social, or cultural in nature | Click Bait  
- Sensationalist, provocative headlines  
- "Infotainment" or tabloidization of news  
- Manipulates emotions to prompt click-through  
- Clicks generate revenue  
- Content is not newsworthy  
- Content often features 'list articles'  
- Content often fails to meet the expectations created by the headline  
Satire  
- Coverage of people, institutions, or systems of power  
- Criticism of foolishness, gullibility or corruption  
- Use of rhetorical devices - humor, irony, exaggeration, etc. - to conceal social criticism  
Misinformation  
- Inaccurate, misleading information  
- Distributed accidentally  
Propaganda (White, Black, Gray)  
- Intentional distribution of biased, misleading, inaccurate, or fabricated information  
- Techniques to create a favorable impression of the special interest, or an unfavorable impression of something for the benefit of the special interest  
- Persuasion or an appeal to positive emotions (happiness, group affinity or belonging, shared achievement or sacrifice), or appeal to negative emotions (fear, bigotry, hatred, resentment) |