

Journalism Daily Warm-ups

compiled and created by

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Journal #1

Why are you interested in journalism?

What is a journalist?



What purpose does journalism serve in our society?

Journal #2

What makes news?

What qualities do news stories have in common - why are they news?

Journal #3

The high school athletic department is rumored to be undergoing budget cuts. This would mean no new uniforms or equipment for next year.



You are assigned to write this story.

What sources will you use? Who will you interview? What angles could you take?

Explain your choices.

Journal #4

The economy is a topic written about in many national newspapers - how can we narrow it down to make it newsworthy for our high school community?

- Ask 'so what' for our community.
- How would you localize this issue?
- Whom would you interview?
- How would you make your readers care?



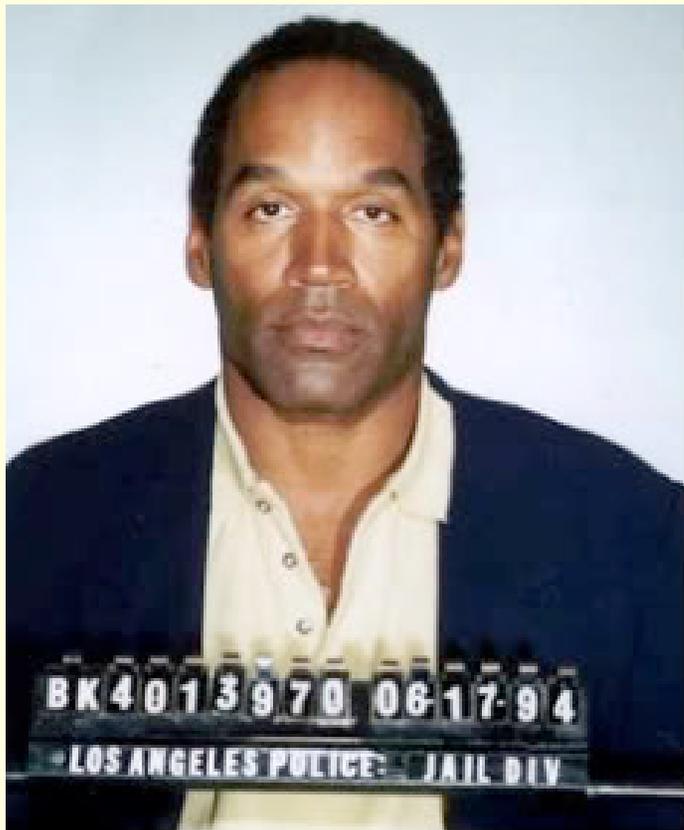
Journal #5

Read through all seven key ethics points at the right and try to explain why each is important for a journalist to uphold. We will be using these in future ethics discussions and journals.

- SEVEN KEY
ETHICS POINTS
- 1 Be Responsible
 - 2 Be Fair
 - 3 Be Honest
 - 4 Be Accurate
 - 5 Be Independent
 - 6 Minimize Harm
 - 7 Be Accountable

Journal #6

Time Magazine choose to publish the picture on the right, was this ethical? Why/Why not?



Source: <http://www.10000words.net/2009/05/10-news-photos-that-took-photoshop-too.html>

Journal #7

Four out of eight high school cheerleaders were suspended from athletic participation due to minors for alcohol consumption over the weekend.

Do we cover it? Why/Why not? If so, how?

- SEVEN KEY ETHICS POINTS
- 1 Be Responsible
 - 2 Be Fair
 - 3 Be Honest
 - 4 Be Accurate
 - 5 Be Independent
 - 6 Minimize Harm
 - 7 Be Accountable

Journal #8

A teacher is rumored to be having inappropriate relations with a student.

Do we cover it? Why/Why not? If so, how?

SEVEN KEY ETHICS POINTS

1 Be Responsible

2 Be Fair

3 Be Honest

4 Be Accurate

5 Be Independent

6 Minimize Harm

7 Be Accountable

Journal #9

A nearby school bus-loading zone is suspected as being the cause of a high cancer rate in the surrounding community.

Do we cover it? Why/Why not? If so, how?

SEVEN KEY ETHICS POINTS

1 Be Responsible

2 Be Fair

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7 Be Accountable

Journal #10

A *Los Angeles Times* photographer manipulated the two photos below to make a more dynamic shot. Was this ethical? Why/why not?



Source: <http://www.10000words.net/2009/05/10-news-photos-that-took-photoshop-too.html>

Journal #11

Lead exercise: practice dropping your reader into the story.

Story: Quarterback of football team breaks femur bone in homecoming game. Think of three people, places and moments with which you could start this story.

i.e. Mom - in stands - crowd goes silent

Person	Place	Moment
#1		
#2		
#3		

Journal #12

Our soccer team hasn't won a game all season, but our student editors would like to run a story on the team for the next issue's sports section.

How do we cover them? What angles could we take?



Journal #13

A *Reuters* photographer digitally added more smoke to the published photo on the right. Was this ethical? Why/why not?



Source: <http://www.10000words.net/2009/05/10-news-photos-that-took-photoshop-too.html>

Journal #14

Ethical advertising decisions:

What can and cannot be published?

- For Sale: Civil War saber \$1000
- Professional photographer seeking cute female models. *Very easy work.* \$35/hr
- Female seeking female roommate, two bdrm apt. \$300/mo.

Journal #15

Is it okay to use anonymous sources in a news story? Why / Why not?



Journal #16

You are assigned to write and illustrate a story on the high school robotics team.

Brainstorm a variety of ways you could illustrate this story. Be creative and explain your choices.



Journal #17

Which lead is better? Explain.

Lead 1 - Ms. Swanson announced her retirement last week. She has been teaching here for 30 years. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas and has a master's degree from the University of Missouri.

Lead 2 - Lucy Swanson ran her hand across the desk and inhaled deeply. In three weeks, her 30-year tenure as a mathematics teacher will end, and she is feeling the mixture of nostalgia and exuberance that comes with retirement.

Source: Hawthorne, Bobby. *The Radical Write*, 2nd ed. Jostens, Inc., 2003. p. 58.

Journal #18

You are the editor of a news story just turned in by a staff reporter. Which edit choice do you make below? Explain. Why is this an important decision for an editor/journalist?

The mayor of St. Paul politely stated that he would not be running for office again.

The mayor of St. Paul said that he would not be running for office again.

Journal #19

You are the editor of a news story just turned in by a staff reporter. Which edit choice do you make below? Explain.

Lead 1 - When asked about the girls hockey team, Coach Saunders said she feels they will do really well against their big time rival Blaine.

Lead 2 - Coach Sarah Saunders said the girls hockey team will be ready for Blaine.

Journal #20

You are the editor of a news story just turned in by a staff reporter. Which edit choice do you make below? Explain the significance of your choice.

Lead 1 - On Tuesday, Chris Kasem, who is a Junior here at Centennial High School, won top honors in the Student Journalist of the Year Contest, that was sponsored by the Journalism Education Association.

Lead 2 - Junior Chris Kasem won the Journalism Education Association's Student Journalist of the Year Contest, Tuesday.

Journal #21

Think outside the box!

You are assigned the classic story on the annual blood drive.

Brainstorm some ways you can tell this story in a unique way. Consider angles, sources, and remember, you don't have to simply write a feature - think multiple platforms (graphics, video, photo-journalism, blog, info-graphics, quotes...etc)



Journal #22

Today's news readers are more interactive than ever.



Brainstorm some ways to make our school newspaper “interactive” (this could be in paper format or online).

Go into detail, make a plan and explain why this might draw in more readers.

Journal #23

Although the format for journalism is changing (from papers to online, etc), what values in journalism still remain a constant?

Do you believe these values will ever change? How/Why/why not?

Journal #24

What skills do you think you need to have today in order to be a better journalist tomorrow? Explain and give examples.



Journal #25

Lead exercise: practice dropping your reader into the story.

Story: Student in science class identifies a high percentage of lead in school drinking water.

i.e. Teacher - at lab table - looking at results

Person	Place	Moment
#1		
#2		
#3		

Journal #26

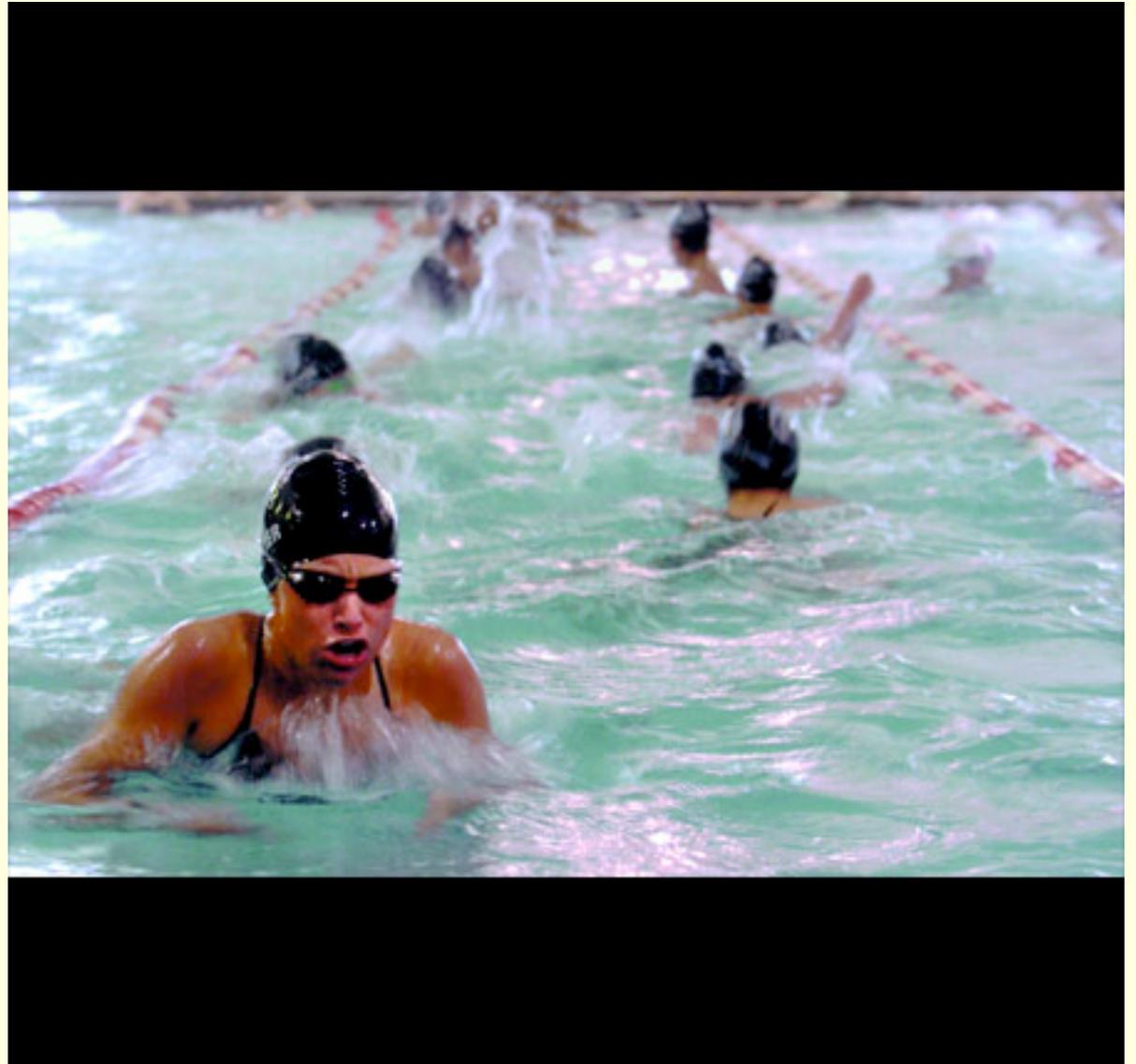
This photo was awarded a Best of the High School Press award in 2006-07. What qualities make it award-worthy?



Shannon Soule, Westlake HS, Austin, TX
<http://www.studentpress.org/bohsp/index.html>

Journal #27

This photo was awarded a Best of the High School Press award in 2005-06. What qualities make it award-worthy?



Megan Koch, Shawnee Mission East, Prairie Village, Kan.
<http://www.studentpress.org/bohsp/index.html>

Journal #28

Pat Shannahan, photographer from The Arizona Republic uses this process for taking photos for the newspaper:

1. Show up early
2. Observe / walk-around; pay attention for good lighting, interesting background
3. Take subject to that space
4. Work in baby steps - let creativity process flow; experiment with a variety of photos
5. Ask the subject a lot of questions: personal connection

Reflect on why this is a good process - how does it help him get a better photograph?

Journal #29

Everyone has a story.

Reflect on your day - go over all the details (conversations you heard in the hallway, posters on walls, classroom discussions...). What stories are out there? Be curious and dig into details.

Journal #30

Considering what Rodriguez has to say below about journalism, why is it important that a newspaper accurately reflect the diversity of a community?

“Many people see the world through what journalists write.”

Rick Rodriguez, former ASNE President; professor at Cronkite School of Journalism, Ariz.

Journal #31

Do you think our student or local newspaper accurately reflects the diversity within our community? Explain.

Provide suggestions for improved diversity coverage.

Journal #32

Brainstorm a list of groups in our school who rarely get covered in the paper.

Consider the following categories:

- ethnicity
- academics
- cultural
- religious
- social
- clubs
- athletics...

Journal #33

Explain the significance of the quotes below in regards to diverse coverage.

“I brought voices into the paper who normally wouldn’t have been heard.”

“Isn’t that the mission of a newspaper? Help people understand each other, help people understand what’s going on.”

Rick Rodriguez, former ASNE President; professor at Cronkite School of Journalism, Ariz.

Journal #34

What elements are important to consider when designing a newspaper?

What visually is most important to you as a reader?



Journal #35

Which of the following best exemplifies quality modular design and requires the least amount of work from readers? Explain.

Officials prepare for crowds



Officials are preparing for the state's largest event, the annual state fair, which is held in Houston. The fair is expected to draw millions of visitors and will be held from September 1 to October 1. Officials are working to ensure that the fair is a success and that the state is prepared for the crowds.

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3

Journal #37

This design was awarded a Best of the High School Press award in 2006-07. What qualities make it award-worthy?



Larry Buchanan, Homestead HE. Fort Wayne, Ind.
<http://www.studentpress.org/bohsp/index.html>

Journal #38

Do you read the news? Why / Why not?

How do you usually get your news?
i.e. newspaper, Twitter, radio, etc...

Why do you prefer to get it this way?

Journal #39

How do you think most people get their news today?

How do you think people will get their news in the future? Explain

Do you think the practice of being a journalist will change? Explain.

Journal #40

Choose one of the quotes below and explain / expand:

On writing:

*“Tell great stories that help people understand.”
Thom Fladung, editor, Pioneer Press*

On reporting:

“As good as documents are, it’s always better to talk to someone.” Eric Wieffering, business editor, Star Tribune

Journal #41

Choose one of the quotes below and explain / expand:

On journalism:

“Get caught loving your community.” Marty Kaiser, ASNE president; editor, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

If there are no real journalists in the future:

“It could be a great time to become a politician.” Marty Kaiser, ASNE president; editor, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Journal #42

Choose one of the quotes below and explain / expand:

On journalists:

“People expect us to get it right.” Kim Ode, feature writer, Star Tribune

On writing a review:

“It’s not just giving your opinion, you want to justify your opinion.” Jon Bream, music reviewer, Star Tribune

Journal #43

Le Templar, editorial editor for the East Valley Tribune, Ariz. said the following about the difference between news and opinion writing. Explain the significance of his two statements.

On news-writing: “Tell it to your mom, see if she understands it.”

On opinion-writing: “Tell it to your mom, see if she cares about it.”

Journal #44

Choose one of the quotes below and explain / expand:

On journalism:

“There’s nothing better than seeing the power of good stories in people’s lives.”

Gregory Farve, former ASNE President, Distinguished Fellow of Journalism Values, The Poynter Institute

“The future of news is directly linked to democracy.”

Gregory Farve, former ASNE President, Distinguished Fellow of Journalism Values, The Poynter Institute

Journal #45

If you could sum up your thoughts on the significance of journalism in a quote or two, what would you say?