

Newsforge — Activity Book

A Spark & Anvil activity book — puzzles, questions, and fun from Newsforge.

Write in the book, circle your answers, and check the Answer Key at the back.

1. foundations_of_journalism_gr56

Circle the correct answer

1. What are the 'Five Ws and One H' that every news story should answer?

(A) Write, Watch, Work, Warn, Wait, and Help, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) Who, Which, While, Whenever, Whatever, and However, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) Win, Wish, Wonder, Worry, Wait, and Hope, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How — the six fundamental questions that provide readers with the essential facts of a news event

2. What is the difference between a 'news story' and an 'opinion piece'?

(A) There is no real difference — all news writing includes the reporter's opinion, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) News stories are long and opinion pieces are short, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) A news story reports facts and events objectively using verified information and sources, while an opinion piece (editorial, column, or op-ed) expresses the writer's personal viewpoint, analysis, or argument about an issue (D) News stories are written by editors and opinion pieces are written by reporters, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

3. What is a 'source' in journalism?

(A) A person, document, recording, or dataset that provides information for a news story — journalists rely on multiple sources to verify facts and present different perspectives (B) The website or app where you read the news, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) The editor who assigns stories to reporters, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) The company that pays for news advertisements, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

4. What is a 'lede' (or 'lead') in a news story?

(A) The last paragraph that wraps up the story, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) The opening paragraph of a news story that summarizes the most important information — typically answering the key Five Ws questions to hook the

reader immediately (C) The author's name and credentials listed below the headline, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) The headline at the top of the article, and this principle applies across similar situations

5. What does 'freedom of the press' mean, and why is it considered important in a democracy?

(A) It means newspapers and TV stations don't have to pay taxes, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Freedom of the press is the right of journalists and news organizations to report news, express opinions, and investigate government actions without censorship or punishment — it serves as a 'watchdog' that holds powerful people and institutions accountable (C) It means anyone can print anything without fact-checking, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) It means the government must provide free newspapers to all citizens, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

6. What are 'news values' — the criteria editors use to decide which stories are newsworthy?

(A) The amount of money a story will generate in advertising revenue, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) News values include timeliness (recent events), proximity (local relevance), impact (how many people are affected), prominence (involvement of well-known people), conflict (disagreements or tensions), novelty (unusual or surprising events), and human interest (emotional stories) (C) Whether the story matches the political opinions of the newspaper's owner, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (D) How many words the story will require to tell properly, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

Write the answer

7. What is the 'inverted pyramid' structure in news writing?

Answer: _____

8. What is a 'byline,' and what information does it typically include?

Answer: _____

9. A reporter writes: 'The mayor was seen eating lunch at a downtown restaurant.' Another reporter writes: 'Sources close to the investigation say the mayor met secretly with a real estate developer at a downtown restaurant to discuss a controversial land deal.' What does this comparison illustrate about the importance of context in reporting?

Answer: _____

10. What is a 'beat' in journalism?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is 'attribution' in news writing, and why is it important? →
2. What does it mean when journalists say they must 'verify' information before publishing? →
3. What is the difference between a 'primary source' and a 'secondary source' in journalism? →
4. What is 'bias' in the context of news reporting, and what are some common types of media bias? →
5. What is a 'headline,' and what qualities make a good news headline? →

(A) Verification means independently confirming that information is accurate and true before publishing — checking facts against multiple sources, reviewing documents, and ensuring claims can be substantiated

(B) Bias is a tendency to favor one perspective over others, whether consciously or unconsciously. Common types include selection bias (choosing which stories to cover), framing bias (how stories are presented), confirmation bias (seeking evidence that supports existing beliefs), and source bias (over-relying on certain types of sources)

(C) A headline is the title above a news article that summarizes the story and attracts readers. A good headline is accurate, specific, active (uses strong verbs), concise, and gives readers enough information to understand the story's subject without misleading them

(D) A primary source is someone who directly witnessed or participated in an event (an eyewitness, a participant, an official document), while a secondary source is someone reporting what they heard from others or interpreting primary information (another news article, a textbook summary)

(E) Attribution tells readers where information in a story came from — who said it, which document it's from, or what study it references — so readers can evaluate the credibility and potential bias of each claim

2. source_evaluation_and_credibility_gr56

Circle the correct answer

11. What does 'credibility' mean when evaluating a news source?

(A) Credibility means whether the source agrees with your existing opinions, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (B) Credibility means how many followers or subscribers a source has on social media, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) Credibility means how expensive the source's website looks, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Credibility

is the trustworthiness and reliability of a source — determined by factors like the source's track record for accuracy, transparency about methods and funding, use of evidence, willingness to correct errors, and reputation among other journalists and experts

12. What is the 'CRAAP test' used for evaluating sources?

(A) A chemical test used to detect fake ink on printed newspapers, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) CRAAP stands for Currency (how recent), Relevance (how related to your topic), Authority (who created it and their expertise), Accuracy (is it supported by evidence), and Purpose (why was it created — to inform, persuade, sell, or entertain) (C) A test that measures how bad or 'crappy' a news article is on a scale of 1-10, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) A software program that automatically rates news articles as true or false, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

13. What is the difference between a 'credible news organization' and a 'misinformation website' that mimics the appearance of news?

(A) The only difference is that credible organizations charge for subscriptions, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) You can always tell the difference because misinformation websites look amateur and poorly designed, which reflects how this process typically works in practice (C) Credible news organizations have professional editorial processes, named reporters with verifiable identities, correction policies, contact information, transparent ownership, and membership in press associations. Misinformation sites may look professional but lack these indicators — often having no named authors, no corrections page, sensational headlines, and hidden ownership (D) There's no way to tell the difference — you just have to trust your instincts, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

14. What is an 'anonymous source,' and when is it acceptable for journalists to use one?

(A) Anonymous sources should never be used because they could be making things up, according to the standard framework for civic participation (B) Anonymous sources are always preferable because they speak more freely, which reflects how this process typically works in practice (C) Anonymous sources are only used in gossip columns, not serious journalism, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (D) An anonymous source provides information on the condition that their identity won't be revealed publicly. It's acceptable when the information is important to the public interest and the source faces genuine risk (losing their job, legal retaliation, or physical danger) by being named — but journalists should try to get on-the-record sources whenever possible

15. What is 'lateral reading,' and why do fact-checkers use it instead of just reading the source itself?

(A) Lateral reading means reading multiple articles by the same author to check consistency, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) Lateral reading means reading the article from left to right across the page, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) Lateral reading means only reading headlines and skipping the full articles, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) Lateral reading means opening new tabs to research what other sources say about the website or claim you're evaluating, rather than only reading the source itself — because a biased or fraudulent source can appear convincing on its own, but checking what independent experts and fact-checkers say about it reveals its true reliability

16. What is the difference between 'misinformation' and 'disinformation'?

(A) Misinformation is false or inaccurate information shared without intent to deceive — the person sharing it genuinely believes it's true. Disinformation is deliberately false information created and spread with the intent to mislead, manipulate, or cause harm (B) Misinformation is minor errors; disinformation is major errors, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) They mean exactly the same thing and are interchangeable, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Misinformation is online; disinformation is in print newspapers, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

Write the answer

17. Why is it important to check who OWNS or FUNDS a news organization?

Answer: _____

18. A website claims that a new study proves chocolate cures headaches. What steps would you take to evaluate this claim?

Answer: _____

19. What is 'confirmation bias,' and how does it affect the way people consume news?

Answer: _____

20. What is 'clickbait,' and how can you identify it?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is a 'peer-reviewed' source, and why is it considered more reliable than a non-peer-reviewed source? →

2. What is a 'conflict of interest' in journalism, and why should reporters disclose them? →

3. What is a 'wire service' like the Associated Press (AP) or Reuters, and why are they considered reliable sources? →

4. What is 'astroturfing' in the context of media and public opinion? →

5. What is a 'retraction' in journalism, and when is it necessary? →

(A) A conflict of interest occurs when a reporter has a personal, financial, or professional connection to the subject they're covering that could bias their reporting — such as owning stock in a company they write about or being related to a politician they cover. Disclosing conflicts lets readers judge the reporting's objectivity

(B) A peer-reviewed source has been evaluated by independent experts in the same field before publication — they check the methodology, evidence, and conclusions for errors and validity. This process doesn't guarantee the research is correct, but it provides a quality control layer that non-reviewed sources lack

(C) Wire services are news agencies that gather and distribute news reports to subscribing newspapers, TV stations, and websites worldwide. They're considered reliable because they serve clients across the political spectrum (so they can't afford to be partisan), have large global reporting staffs, and follow strict accuracy and verification standards

(D) A retraction is the complete withdrawal of a published story because it contains fundamental errors, fabricated information, or was based on a source that was later revealed to be unreliable — it's the most serious corrective action a news organization can take, reserved for situations where the story should never have been published

(E) Astroturfing is the practice of disguising a coordinated campaign by a corporation, political group, or government to look like a spontaneous grassroots movement — creating fake 'ordinary citizens' who promote a specific agenda through letters, social media posts, reviews, or comments

3. Digital Literacy and Online News

Circle the correct answer

21. What is a 'news algorithm' on social media platforms?

(A) A reporter who writes stories specifically for social media (B) A secret code journalists use to communicate with each other (C) Software that decides which stories appear in your feed based on your behavior and preferences (D) A government regulation that controls what news gets published

22. What is a 'filter bubble' in online news consumption?

(A) A feature that filters out fake news automatically (B) A situation where algorithms only show you content that matches your existing views and interests (C) A subscription model that limits access to certain news sources (D) A privacy tool

that blocks advertisements from news websites

23. What is 'citizen journalism'?

(A) A government program that pays citizens to write news articles (B) Reporting done by ordinary people who are not professional journalists, often using smartphones and social media (C) News reporting that is only available to citizens of a specific country (D) Journalism that only covers stories about citizenship and voting

24. A news website earns most of its revenue from digital advertising. How might this business model affect the type of stories the site publishes?

(A) The site would only publish positive stories to keep advertisers happy (B) The site would have no incentive to publish stories at all (C) The site may prioritize sensational or attention-grabbing stories that generate more clicks and ad views (D) The site would automatically become more accurate because advertisers demand quality

25. Why is a 'paywall' used by some online news organizations?

(A) To keep their stories exclusive to government officials (B) To generate subscription revenue so the organization can fund quality journalism without relying entirely on advertising (C) To hide news stories that contain errors from public view (D) To prevent foreign readers from accessing national news

26. How does the speed of social media sharing affect the accuracy of breaking news?

(A) Breaking news on social media is always wrong because platforms don't allow real journalists (B) Information spreads so quickly that unverified or incorrect details often circulate before journalists can confirm facts (C) Speed has no effect on accuracy because all social media posts are reviewed before publishing (D) Social media always makes breaking news more accurate because more people can verify it

Write the answer

27. What is the difference between a news aggregator (like Google News) and a news publisher (like a local newspaper's website)?

Answer: _____

28. Your school is starting a student news blog. Which practice would best help your audience trust the blog as a reliable news source?

Answer: _____

29. You see a shocking news headline shared by a friend on social media. Before sharing it yourself, which steps should you take to verify it?

Answer: _____

30. A local business owner wants to promote their new store. They pay a news website to publish an article that looks like a regular news story but is actually an advertisement. What should the website do to maintain ethical standards?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. You're researching a controversial topic and notice that your social media feed only shows articles supporting one side. You then search the topic on a news aggregator and find articles presenting multiple perspectives. What does this difference illustrate? →

2. During a natural disaster, a citizen journalist's smartphone video goes viral on social media, showing dramatic footage of flooding. A professional news network also covers the disaster with reporters on the ground. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each type of coverage? →

3. A news website publishes a story with the headline: 'SHOCKING: Scientists Say Chocolate Cures All Diseases!' The article cites one small study with 12 participants. What red flags should a critical reader identify? →

4. Compare how a breaking news event would be covered differently on a 24-hour cable news channel versus a daily newspaper's website. What are the trade-offs? →

5. A popular social media influencer with 2 million followers shares a news article about a health topic. A medical journalist at a reputable newspaper writes a different article on the same topic with different conclusions. Which factor should matter most when evaluating which source to trust? →

(A) Cable news provides continuous live updates but may speculate to fill airtime, while the newspaper website can take more time to verify facts and provide deeper analysis

(B) Your social media feed is affected by a filter bubble, while the news aggregator provides a broader range of viewpoints

(C) The expertise and methodology behind each source's claims, not the popularity or follower count of the person sharing it

(D) Citizen journalism provides immediate, firsthand footage but may lack context and verification; professional coverage provides verified facts and broader context but may arrive later

(E) The sensationalized headline exaggerates the finding, the study sample size is too small to draw broad conclusions, and no other research is cited

4. Writing and Reporting Skills

Circle the correct answer

31. What is the 'nut graf' (or 'nut graph') in a news story?

(A) A chart or graph that contains statistical data about the story topic (B) A paragraph that contains the reporter's personal opinion about the story (C) A paragraph near the top of the story that explains why the story matters and gives the reader the essential context (D) The final paragraph that summarizes the entire story

32. What is a 'direct quote' versus a 'paraphrase' in news writing?

(A) A direct quote is from a named source while a paraphrase is from an anonymous source (B) A direct quote is a fact while a paraphrase is an opinion (C) A direct quote uses the source's exact words in quotation marks, while a paraphrase restates the source's ideas in the reporter's own words (D) A direct quote is used in print and a paraphrase is used on television

33. What is an 'embargo' in journalism?

(A) A rule that says journalists cannot interview people under age 18 (B) A government ban that prevents journalists from covering a specific topic (C) A penalty given to journalists who publish false information (D) An agreement between a source and journalists that information can be shared in advance but not published until a specific date and time

34. Why do journalists use the 'active voice' (e.g., 'The mayor signed the bill') rather than the 'passive voice' (e.g., 'The bill was signed by the mayor')?

(A) Active voice uses fewer characters so it costs less to print (B) Passive voice is considered too formal for modern readers (C) Active voice is more direct, concise, and clearly identifies who performed the action, making stories easier to read (D) Active voice is a legal requirement for all published news articles

35. Why is it important for a journalist to prepare questions before an interview rather than 'winging it'?

(A) Because improvised questions are considered illegal in professional journalism (B) Because sources will refuse to speak to unprepared journalists (C) Because journalism schools require written proof of preparation (D) Prepared questions ensure the journalist covers all necessary topics, shows respect for the source's time, and can ask informed follow-up questions based on prior research

36. What does it mean to 'bury the lede' in a news story?

(A) Writing a lede that contains a factual error (B) Writing a lede that is too short to be understood (C) Publishing a story without including any lede at all (D) Placing the most important information deep in the story instead of highlighting it at the beginning

Write the answer

37. What is the difference between 'hard news' and 'feature' writing styles?

Answer: _____

38. You are writing a news story about a new school recycling program. You interview the principal, a student leader, and a janitor who manages waste collection. How should you incorporate quotes from all three sources?

Answer: _____

39. Rewrite this passive-voice sentence in active voice for a news story: 'The fundraiser was organized by the seventh-grade student council, and over \$2,000 was raised for the animal shelter.'

Answer: _____

40. You're interviewing your school's science teacher about a new lab renovation. They say something surprising off-topic: 'Between you and me, I think the school board is wasting money on sports instead of science.' How should you handle this as a journalist?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. You've written a story about the school basketball team's championship win. Your editor tells you to 'tighten' the story by 200 words. What strategies should you use to shorten the story without losing essential information? →

2. Compare these two ledes for the same story: Lede A: 'There was a meeting of the school board last night.' Lede B: 'The school board voted 5-2 Tuesday night to close Jefferson Elementary, affecting 400 students and their families.' Which is more effective and why? →

3. A reporter interviews five people for a story. Three support a new park and two oppose it. In the final story, the reporter uses four quotes from supporters and one from an opponent. How does this selection of quotes create potential bias in the story? →

4. Read this excerpt from a student's news story: 'The terrible decision by the incompetent cafeteria staff to remove pizza from the menu has outraged all students.' Identify all the problems with this sentence from a journalism perspective. →

5. Analyze how the order of information in a news story can influence reader perception. If a story about a new school policy starts with parent complaints (paragraphs 1-3) before explaining the policy's benefits (paragraphs 4-6), how might this affect the reader? →

(A) Readers tend to remember and be influenced most by information presented first; leading with complaints frames the policy negatively before readers encounter the benefits

(B) Lede B is more effective because it identifies the specific action (voted to close),

the result (5-2), and the impact (400 students), giving readers the essential news immediately

(C) The 4:1 quote ratio gives disproportionate voice to supporters, making it appear that opposition is weaker than it actually is, even if the reporter didn't intend to be biased

(D) Remove redundant phrases, eliminate unnecessary adjectives and adverbs, cut the least important details from the bottom (inverted pyramid), combine short sentences, and replace wordy phrases with concise alternatives

(E) It uses loaded language ('terrible,' 'incompetent'), makes an unsupported generalization ('all students'), expresses opinion as fact, and lacks attribution for the claim of outrage

5. Data Journalism and Visual Storytelling

Circle the correct answer

41. What is 'data journalism'?

(A) Journalism that is only published in digital format, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) Journalism that uses statistical analysis, databases, and data visualization to find and tell stories that traditional reporting methods might miss (C) A type of reporting that replaces human journalists with computers, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) Any news story that mentions a number or statistic, and this principle applies across similar situations

42. What is an 'infographic'?

(A) A photograph that accompanies a news article (B) A visual representation that combines images, charts, icons, and text to present information or data in an easily understandable format (C) A graphic design portfolio used by news organizations (D) An information page on a website that describes the news organization

43. What is a 'primary source' of data versus a 'secondary source' of data in journalism?

(A) Primary data is more recent and secondary data is older, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) A primary source is the original data (a government database, survey results, a direct document), while a secondary source is someone else's analysis or interpretation of that data (C) Primary data is digital and secondary data is printed on paper, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) Primary data comes from the government and secondary data comes from companies, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

44. Why is a bar chart usually better than a pie chart for comparing values across multiple categories?

(A) Pie charts are only allowed for showing percentages, not raw numbers (B) Bar charts were invented first and are considered more traditional (C) Bar charts allow readers to compare lengths on a common baseline, which the human eye does more accurately than comparing pie slice angles and areas (D) Bar charts use less ink and are cheaper to print

45. What does it mean when a journalist says they obtained data through a 'Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request'?

(A) They paid a fee to access a private database maintained by a news organization (B) They found the data freely available on the internet (C) They formally asked a government agency to release public records or data that the agency was required by law to provide (D) They received the data anonymously from a government whistleblower

46. How can a misleading scale on a graph's Y-axis distort the appearance of data?

(A) A misleading Y-axis only affects pie charts, not bar or line graphs (B) Misleading scales are only a problem when the graph has no title (C) The Y-axis scale doesn't matter as long as the data points are accurate (D) Starting the Y-axis at a number other than zero can make small differences appear dramatically large, or truncating the axis can hide significant variation

Write the answer

47. What type of data visualization would be most appropriate for showing how your city's population has changed every decade from 1950 to 2020?

Answer: _____

48. You're writing a data journalism story about school lunch nutrition in your district. You have a spreadsheet with nutritional data for every school lunch served over one year. What is the first step you should take with this data?

Answer: _____

49. Your school conducted a survey asking 200 students about their favorite extracurricular activity. The results: Sports 80, Music 45, Art 35, Drama 25, Robotics 15. Create the most appropriate visualization and explain your choice.

Answer: _____

50. A news organization creates an interactive map showing crime rates in different neighborhoods. Some readers complain that the map unfairly stigmatizes certain areas. How can the news organization present this data responsibly?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A graph in a news article shows that ice cream sales and drowning deaths both increase during summer months. The article implies that eating ice cream causes drowning. What statistical concept explains why this conclusion is wrong? →
2. A news article reports: 'Crime in the city DOUBLED this year!' Upon reading further, you discover that crime went from 2 incidents to 4 incidents in a city of 500,000 people. Analyze why this headline is misleading. →
3. You have data showing that students who eat breakfast score 15% higher on tests than students who skip breakfast. A classmate says this proves breakfast makes you smarter. What factors should you consider before accepting this conclusion? →
4. Compare how the same unemployment data could be presented to tell two opposite stories: one that makes the economy look like it's improving and one that makes it look like it's getting worse. What techniques might each version use? →
5. What is a 'choropleth map' and when is it used in data journalism? →

(A) The positive version might start the graph at a recent peak to show decline, cherry-pick favorable months, and highlight month-over-month improvement; the negative version might use a longer time range showing a historical low, emphasize the total number of unemployed, and truncate the Y-axis to exaggerate changes

(B) While technically accurate (100% increase), the headline uses a relative statistic to exaggerate a negligible change — the absolute numbers (2 to 4) in a large population are statistically insignificant

(C) Other variables could explain the difference: students who eat breakfast may come from more stable homes, get more sleep, or have less stress — breakfast alone may not be the cause

(D) A map where geographic regions are shaded or colored based on a data value, used to show how a variable (like population density or election results) varies across locations

(E) Correlation does not equal causation — both variables increase in summer because of a third factor (hot weather), not because one causes the other

6. Investigative Journalism and Accountability

Circle the correct answer

51. What is 'investigative journalism' and how does it differ from daily news reporting?

(A) Any journalism that involves interviewing more than one person, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) A type of journalism that only appears in print newspapers, never online, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) Reporting that only covers criminal investigations by the police,

making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) Investigative journalism involves in-depth, original research conducted over weeks or months to expose wrongdoing, corruption, or systemic problems that powerful people or institutions try to keep hidden

52. What is a 'whistleblower' in the context of journalism?

(A) An insider within an organization who reveals hidden information about wrongdoing, illegal activity, or dangers to a journalist or the public (B) A news editor who corrects errors in published stories (C) A referee at a sporting event who reports rule violations (D) A journalist who publishes stories that criticize the government

53. What is 'shield law' in journalism?

(A) A rule that shields news organizations from paying taxes (B) A regulation that requires journalists to carry protective equipment in war zones (C) A law that protects journalists from being forced by courts to reveal confidential sources or unpublished materials (D) A law that prevents anyone from criticizing journalists in public

54. Why is the concept of a 'public interest' important in investigative journalism?

(A) It means that only stories interesting to the general public deserve investigation, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) It provides the ethical justification for investigations — stories that serve the public interest (exposing corruption, protecting safety, informing voters) justify the resources, intrusion, and potential harm involved (C) It's a legal term that means the story must be approved by the government, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) It refers to the percentage of the public who read the story after publication, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

55. What is a 'document trail' and why is it considered more reliable than testimony alone?

(A) A document trail is a series of written records (emails, contracts, financial records, memos) that provides verifiable evidence — documents can't change their story or misremember events like human sources can (B) Document trails are only found in government buildings and are not available to journalists (C) A document trail is less reliable than testimony because documents can be forged (D) A document trail is a physical path made of papers that leads investigators to a location

56. What is 'libel' and why must investigative journalists be careful to avoid it?

(A) Libel is any negative statement about a public figure, even if true, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Libel only applies to photographs, not to written words, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) Libel is publishing a false statement that damages someone's reputation — investigative journalists must ensure every claim is accurate and well-documented because false statements can result in costly lawsuits (D) Libel is the act of publishing a story

without the subject's permission, and this principle applies across similar situations

Write the answer

57. You are investigating whether your school district is spending lunch money fairly across all schools. What public records would you request, and what would you look for in the data?

Answer: _____

58. A confidential source tells you that a school administrator is misusing funds, but they insist you can't use their name. How do you verify this information before publishing?

Answer: _____

59. Before publishing an investigative story accusing a school official of misconduct, what ethical steps should the journalist take?

Answer: _____

60. The Watergate scandal (1972-1974) is considered a landmark of investigative journalism. Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein relied on a confidential source known as 'Deep Throat.' Analyze why protecting this source's identity was essential to the investigation.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. The Panama Papers investigation (2016) involved 400 journalists from 80 countries analyzing 11.5 million leaked financial documents. Why was this collaborative approach necessary, and what does it reveal about modern investigative journalism? →

2. Compare the roles of journalism and the legal system in holding powerful people accountable. How are they similar, how are they different, and why do societies need both? →

3. What are 'sunshine laws' or 'open meeting laws' and how do they help investigative journalists? →

4. An investigative reporter discovers that a popular local charity is spending only 15% of donations on its stated mission, with the rest going to executive salaries and overhead. The charity's CEO threatens to sue if the story is published. How should the reporter and editor respond? →

5. Some argue that investigative journalism is unnecessary in the age of social media because 'citizen journalists' can expose wrongdoing faster. Evaluate this claim. →

(A) Verify all financial data against public tax filings (Form 990), ensure the story is factually bulletproof, have legal counsel review it, give the CEO a formal opportunity to respond, and publish — because truth is a defense against libel and the story serves the public interest

(B) Both seek truth and accountability, but journalism investigates and informs the public while the legal system can compel testimony and impose penalties; journalism can reveal issues the legal system ignores, and legal action can follow from journalistic exposés

(C) Laws requiring government bodies to conduct meetings in public and make records available, ensuring government transparency and giving journalists access to information about how public decisions are made

(D) While social media enables rapid exposure, professional investigative journalism provides systematic evidence gathering, legal expertise, editorial oversight, and institutional protection that citizen journalism typically lacks — both play important but different roles

(E) The massive scale of the data required distributed expertise (language, legal, financial knowledge across countries), and global collaboration prevented any single government from suppressing the story

7. Propaganda, Misinformation, and Media Ethics

Circle the correct answer

61. What is the difference between 'misinformation' and 'disinformation'?

(A) Misinformation is false information shared without intent to harm (the person believes it's true), while disinformation is deliberately false information created and spread to deceive or manipulate (B) There is no difference — both terms mean exactly the same thing, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) Misinformation is spread online and disinformation is spread in print, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Misinformation is minor errors and disinformation is major lies, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

62. What is 'propaganda'?

(A) Any information published by the government, regardless of accuracy, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Only communication used during wartime to recruit soldiers, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Advertising for consumer products like food and clothing, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (D) Communication designed to influence people's attitudes, beliefs, or actions by using emotional appeals, selective facts, and persuasion techniques rather than balanced evidence

63. What is the 'bandwagon' propaganda technique?

(A) A technique that only works in small-town communities (B) A technique that involves loading a wagon with pamphlets for distribution (C) A technique that uses musicians and bands to promote political messages (D) Pressuring people to adopt a belief or behavior by claiming that 'everyone else is doing it' — exploiting the desire to belong and conform

64. How does the 'appeal to fear' propaganda technique work?

(A) It involves showing scary images that have no connection to the message (B) It only works on children because adults are immune to fear-based persuasion (C) It works by making the audience physically afraid of the propagandist (D) It creates anxiety about a threat (real or exaggerated) and then presents a specific action, person, or policy as the only way to be safe, bypassing rational analysis

65. What is a 'straw man' argument and how is it used to manipulate public discourse?

(A) Making arguments using only hay and straw as visual metaphors, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Using a fake identity to post opinions on social media, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) Misrepresenting someone's actual argument with a weaker or distorted version, then attacking that distorted version instead of the real argument — making it easier to 'win' the debate without addressing the actual point (D) Building a physical scarecrow to represent an opponent at a public rally, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

66. Why does misinformation spread faster on social media than accurate information?

(A) Accurate information is harder to understand so people don't share it, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) Social media platforms deliberately promote misinformation to earn advertising revenue, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) Misinformation often triggers stronger emotional reactions (surprise, outrage, fear) that compel sharing, while accurate information tends to be more nuanced and less emotionally provocative (D) Misinformation uses special technology that makes it spread faster, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

Write the answer

67. You see a social media post claiming that a new school policy will require students to attend classes on weekends. The post has been shared 5,000 times and has angry comments. How would you apply media literacy skills to evaluate this claim?

Answer: _____

68. A political advertisement shows a candidate's opponent eating dinner at an expensive restaurant, with text saying: 'While you struggle, Candidate X lives in luxury.' Identify the propaganda technique and explain how it works.

Answer: _____

69. During a global health crisis, false health cures spread rapidly on social media. As a student journalist, how would you create a news story that combats health misinformation without accidentally amplifying it?

Answer: _____

70. What is 'astroturfing' and how does it create a false impression of public opinion?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is the 'illusory truth effect' and why does it make repetition a powerful propaganda tool? →

2. Analyze the following headline from two different news outlets covering the same event: Outlet A: 'Protesters Clash with Police at City Hall.' Outlet B: 'Police Crack Down on Peaceful Demonstrators at City Hall.' How does word choice reveal each outlet's framing? →

3. A foreign government creates thousands of fake social media accounts that pretend to be American citizens. These accounts post divisive content on both sides of a political issue — some strongly liberal, some strongly conservative — to amplify disagreements. Analyze why this is effective as a disinformation strategy. →

4. What is a 'deepfake' and why does it pose unique challenges for journalism and media trust? →

5. Compare the 'testimonial' and 'plain folks' propaganda techniques. How does each manipulate trust? →

(A) Testimonial uses a famous or authoritative figure's endorsement to transfer their credibility to a cause; plain folks portrays a leader or product as relatable to ordinary people — both bypass evidence by manipulating social trust

(B) Outlet A frames the event as mutual conflict ('clash' implies both sides are aggressive), while Outlet B frames police as aggressors ('crack down') against innocent people ('peaceful demonstrators') — each headline shapes the reader's perception before they read the article

(C) The psychological tendency to believe information is true simply because you've heard it multiple times — repetition creates familiarity, which the brain mistakes for accuracy

(D) By amplifying extreme voices on both sides, the campaign doesn't need people to believe specific lies — it just needs to increase polarization, distrust, and hostility, which weakens social cohesion and democratic functioning

(E) AI-generated fake video or audio that realistically depicts a real person saying or doing things they never actually did — it threatens journalism because it can create convincing false evidence that is extremely difficult to detect

8. Master Editor: Multimedia Newsroom

Capstone

Circle the correct answer

71. As editor-in-chief of your student newspaper, you receive three breaking stories at the same time: (1) a water main break flooding the gym, (2) a rumor that the principal is resigning, and (3) a student art show opening tonight. How do you prioritize coverage?

(A) Publish all three simultaneously with equal prominence, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) The principal rumor first because it will get the most clicks, which aligns with the established rules of this system (C) The art show first because it's the most positive story, since this is how these institutions are designed to function (D) The water main break is highest priority (confirmed, immediate impact, safety concerns), followed by the principal rumor (high significance but needs verification before publishing), then the art show (important but not time-sensitive for breaking coverage)

72. What is 'editorial judgment' and why is it considered the most important skill for a news editor?

(A) The talent for predicting which stories will generate the most advertising revenue, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) The skill of choosing the most attractive photographs for the front page, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) The ability to write perfectly grammatical sentences, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) The ability to make informed decisions about which stories to pursue, how to frame them, what gets prominence, and what ethical standards to apply — it requires synthesizing news values, audience needs, ethical principles, and practical constraints

73. What is a 'multimedia package' in modern journalism?

(A) A news story told through multiple integrated formats — text, video, audio, interactive graphics, photos, and data visualizations — designed so each format contributes something unique that other formats cannot (B) A collection of stories about different topics published on the same day, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) A story published on multiple social media platforms simultaneously, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) A press kit

containing printed materials sent to news organizations, making this the most widely accepted explanation

74. Why is it important for journalists to understand their audience, and how does audience awareness differ from pandering?

(A) Journalists should never consider their audience because it compromises objectivity (B) Understanding the audience only matters for advertising, not editorial content, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) Understanding the audience helps journalists present important information in accessible, engaging ways; pandering means only covering what the audience already wants to hear, avoiding important-but-uncomfortable stories (D) Audience awareness and pandering are the same thing, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

75. How has the role of a journalist changed in the era of social media and 24/7 news, compared to the era of daily print newspapers?

(A) The role hasn't changed at all because journalism is always the same, based on the principles established in democratic governance (B) Social media has made professional journalists unnecessary, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) Journalists now must produce content faster across multiple platforms, engage directly with audiences, verify user-generated content, combat misinformation, and work in a more competitive attention economy — while the core mission of informing the public remains unchanged (D) Journalists no longer need writing skills because everything is video now, according to the standard framework for civic participation

76. Your student newspaper has just published a story about a teacher, and you discover a factual error — the story said the teacher has 15 years of experience when they actually have 12 years. As editor, what should you do?

(A) Delete the entire article and pretend it was never published, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (B) Immediately publish a correction noting the specific error and the accurate information, append a correction notice to the original article, and review how the error occurred to prevent future mistakes (C) Quietly change the number in the online version and hope nobody noticed, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) Ignore it because 15 vs. 12 years is a minor difference

Write the answer

77. You are producing a multimedia story about a new community garden project. Plan which specific elements (text, video, photo, audio, data visualization, interactive) you would use for each part of the story, explaining why each format is the best choice for that content.

Answer: _____

78. A student reporter on your newspaper team comes to you upset. A source they interviewed called to say they were misquoted and is threatening to complain to the principal. As editor, how do you handle this situation?

Answer: _____

79. Analyze the tension between 'being first' and 'being right' in modern journalism. Why is this tension more intense today than it was 30 years ago, and how should newsrooms navigate it?

Answer: _____

80. Your newspaper publishes both a print edition and a website. Analyze how the same story should be adapted differently for each platform, considering the strengths and limitations of each medium.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A major advertiser threatens to pull their ads from your newspaper if you publish a critical investigative story about their company's environmental record. The advertising revenue pays for a significant portion of the newspaper's budget. As editor, how do you handle this? →

2. Evaluate this statement: 'In the age of AI-generated content, professional journalism is more important than ever.' Do you agree or disagree, and what evidence supports your position? →

3. What is the role of an 'ombudsman' or 'public editor' at a news organization? →

4. Analyze how the concept of 'news deserts' intersects with the digital divide. How does unequal internet access compound the problem of communities losing local news? →

5. Your school newspaper covers a controversial school policy. Half the students support it and half oppose it. Several months later, new evidence shows the policy is causing significant problems. Should the newspaper's coverage change even though it was balanced when originally published? →

(A) An independent position that represents the reader's interests, investigates complaints about the news organization's coverage, and publicly critiques the organization's own journalism to maintain accountability

(B) Yes — journalism follows the evidence, not a fixed balance point; if new evidence shows problems, reporting should reflect that reality even if it appears to 'take a side'; continuing 50/50 coverage would be false balance in light of the evidence

(C) Agree — AI can generate vast quantities of text but cannot independently verify facts, cultivate confidential sources, make ethical judgments about harm vs. public interest, or be held accountable for errors; professional journalism's verification and accountability functions become more critical as AI-generated content floods the

information ecosystem

(D) Communities that lose local newspapers and also have limited internet access face a double information gap — they can't access digital-only news either, leaving them completely disconnected from local information about schools, government, and community events

(E) Publish the story if the reporting is accurate and serves the public interest — editorial independence from advertising is a foundational principle; allowing advertisers to kill stories would destroy the newspaper's credibility and ultimate value

9. Journalism and Media

Circle the correct answer

81. What does the term 'anchor' mean in broadcast journalism?

(A) The final story in a newscast (B) A heavy weight used to hold cameras steady
(C) A reporter who works in the field (D) The main presenter who hosts a news program

82. What is a 'soundbite' in broadcast news?

(A) A short audio or video clip of someone speaking (B) The sound effect used between segments
(C) A technical term for microphone feedback (D) Background music played during a story

83. What is a podcast?

(A) A printed newspaper column (B) A social media post with photos (C) A digital audio program available for download or streaming
(D) A live television broadcast

84. What does 'B-roll' refer to in video journalism?

(A) The opening credits of a news show (B) The main interview footage (C) Bloopers from failed recordings
(D) Supplemental footage that illustrates what the reporter is describing

85. What is a 'rundown' in broadcast journalism?

(A) A list of stories in the order they will appear in a newscast (B) A quick summary read at the end of a show
(C) A timer counting down to air time (D) A rehearsal before going live

86. What does 'going live' mean in broadcast journalism?

(A) Recording a segment to air later (B) Broadcasting in real time as events happen
(C) Rehearsing a news script (D) Editing footage before broadcast

Write the answer

87. Why is voice tone important for broadcast journalists?

Answer: _____

88. How does a podcast differ from a traditional radio news show?

Answer: _____

89. What is the purpose of a 'lead-in' before a broadcast news story?

Answer: _____

90. Why do broadcast journalists use short sentences when writing scripts?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How does adding music to a podcast affect the listening experience? →

2. You are writing a 30-second broadcast script about a school science fair. Which approach is best? →

3. Your podcast episode is about school lunch menus. Which interview question would get the best soundbite? →

4. You are recording a podcast about a local park cleanup. How should you use ambient sound? →

5. You need to edit a two-minute broadcast news story. The raw interview is ten minutes long. What should you do? →

(A) Select the strongest soundbites that support the story's main point

(B) Focus on one winning project and use vivid details the audience can picture

(C) Record the sounds of birds, raking, and volunteers talking to immerse listeners in the scene

(D) What is the one change to the lunch menu that students would cheer about?

(E) It sets the mood and helps signal transitions between segments

10. Journalism and Media

Circle the correct answer

91. What is photojournalism?

(A) Creating fictional art with a camera (B) Filming movies for entertainment (C) Taking selfies for social media (D) The practice of telling news stories primarily through photographs

92. What does 'caption' mean in photojournalism?

(A) The photographer's signature on an image (B) The text accompanying a photo that explains who, what, when, and where (C) The title of a newspaper (D) A filter applied to make photos look better

93. What is the 'rule of thirds' in photography?

(A) A law requiring photos to be printed in three sizes (B) A rule that you must take exactly three photos of every subject (C) A composition guideline that divides the frame into a three-by-three grid to place key elements at intersections (D) A guideline that says every photo needs three people in it

94. What is a 'photo essay'?

(A) A photo album of vacation pictures (B) A single dramatic photograph (C) A series of photographs that tell a complete story about a topic or event (D) A written essay about photography techniques

95. What does 'cropping' mean in photo editing?

(A) Trimming the edges of a photograph to improve composition or remove distracting elements (B) Taking a photograph from a high angle (C) Adding new objects to a photograph (D) Changing the colors of a photograph

96. Who was Dorothea Lange, and why is she significant in photojournalism?

(A) The first person to post photos on social media, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) A TV news anchor from the 1990s, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) The inventor of the digital camera, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) A photographer famous for documenting the Great Depression, including the iconic 'Migrant Mother' image

Write the answer

97. Why is context important when viewing a news photograph?

Answer: _____

98. How does the angle from which a photo is taken affect how viewers perceive the subject?

Answer: _____

99. What is the difference between a candid news photo and a staged photo?

Answer: _____

100. Why might a photojournalist choose to shoot in black and white rather than color?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How can a misleading photo caption change the meaning of a truthful photograph?
→
 2. You are assigned to photograph a story about a community garden. Which shot would best capture the spirit of the project? →
 3. You took a news photo, but a distracting trash can appears at the edge of the frame. What is the ethical way to handle this? →
 4. Your school newspaper needs a photo for a story about the new library. Using the rule of thirds, how should you frame the shot? →
 5. You are creating a photo essay about a day in the life of your school principal. What types of shots should you include? →
 - (A) Crop the photo to remove the trash can from the edge of the frame
 - (B) A close-up of a volunteer's hands planting seedlings alongside a child
 - (C) An inaccurate caption can make viewers believe something different from what actually happened in the photo
 - (D) Place a student reading at one of the intersection points, with bookshelves filling the background
 - (E) Wide establishing shots of the school, medium shots of meetings, and close-ups showing emotion and detail
-

11. Journalism and Media

Circle the correct answer

101. What is an editorial in a newspaper?

(A) An article that expresses the official opinion of the newspaper's editorial board on a public issue (B) A news report about a recent event, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) A letter written by a reader, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) An advertisement paid for by a business, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

102. What is an 'op-ed'?

(A) A factual news story on the opinions page, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) An error correction published after a mistake, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) An opinion piece written by someone who does not work for the publication, typically an outside expert or community member (D) The opposite of an editorial, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

103. What is a 'thesis statement' in an opinion piece?

(A) A clear sentence that states the writer's main argument or position (B) The title of the article (C) A quote from an expert (D) The final sentence of the conclusion

104. What does it mean to 'rebut' an argument?

(A) To agree with the opposing side (B) To repeat the same argument louder (C) To ignore the opposing argument entirely (D) To present evidence or reasoning that disproves or weakens an opposing claim

105. What is the difference between a fact and an opinion?

(A) There is no real difference between facts and opinions (B) A fact can be verified with evidence, while an opinion is a personal belief or judgment (C) Facts are always true and opinions are always false (D) Facts are published in newspapers and opinions are on social media

106. What is 'bias' in opinion writing?

(A) A tendency to favor one perspective over others, which is expected and transparent in opinion writing (B) A spelling mistake in an article, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) An illegal form of journalism, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) A type of font used in newspapers, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

Write the answer

107. Why do newspapers separate opinion pages from news pages?

Answer: _____

108. How does using evidence strengthen an opinion piece?

Answer: _____

109. What does it mean to 'address the counterargument' in opinion writing?

Answer: _____

110. How is persuasive language different from manipulative language?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why might two people read the same evidence and reach different opinions? →

2. You want to write an editorial arguing for longer recess at your school. Which type of evidence would best support your argument? →

3. Write a thesis statement for an editorial arguing that school libraries should have longer hours. →

4. You are writing an op-ed about school lunch quality. Your opponent argues that healthier food is too expensive. How should you address this counterargument? →

5. Which of these sentences uses persuasive language most effectively for a school editorial? →

(A) Studies show that students with access to the arts score 20% higher on creative thinking assessments, proving that art programs are essential investments.

(B) Because people interpret evidence through their own values, experiences, and priorities

(C) School libraries should extend their hours to evenings and weekends because students who lack internet access at home deserve equal opportunities to research, study, and explore.

(D) Acknowledge the cost concern, then present evidence showing that investing in nutrition reduces healthcare costs and improves student performance

(E) Research studies showing that physical activity improves student focus and academic performance

12. Journalism and Media

Circle the correct answer

111. What does 'freedom of the press' mean?

- (A) The right of the government to control what is published (B) The right to print anything, including lies, without consequence (C) The right of journalists and news organizations to publish information without government censorship or restriction (D) The right to get free newspapers

112. Which amendment to the United States Constitution protects freedom of the press?

- (A) The Tenth Amendment (B) The Second Amendment (C) The Fifth Amendment (D) The First Amendment

113. What is censorship?

- (A) When a journalist writes under a pen name (B) The process of editing a newspaper for grammar mistakes (C) A type of news reporting style (D) The suppression or restriction of information, speech, or media by a government or other authority

114. What does the organization Reporters Without Borders do?

- (A) It monitors and defends press freedom worldwide and publishes an annual World Press Freedom Index (B) It trains reporters how to use cameras (C) It publishes a daily international newspaper (D) It provides free internet to journalists

115. What is a 'shield law' in journalism?

- (A) A law that prevents journalists from entering war zones (B) A law that protects journalists from being forced to reveal their confidential sources (C) A law requiring journalists to wear protective gear (D) A law that shields newspapers from criticism

116. What does 'state-run media' mean?

- (A) Newspapers that only cover state-level politics (B) News organizations owned and controlled by the government (C) Media companies that operate in every state (D) A term for online-only news organizations

Write the answer

117. Why is press freedom considered essential to a functioning democracy?

Answer: _____

118. How does internet access affect press freedom around the world?

Answer: _____

119. What happens to a society when journalists are imprisoned or threatened for their reporting?

Answer: _____

120. How does 'prior restraint' differ from punishing a journalist after publication?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why do some governments use the concept of 'national security' to justify restricting press freedom? →

2. A school principal bans the student newspaper from publishing a story about cafeteria food safety concerns. Using your knowledge of press freedom principles, what should the student editors do? →

3. You discover that a journalist in another country has been imprisoned for reporting on government corruption. How could you use media to raise awareness about this case? →

4. A country with limited press freedom has one independent newspaper left. The government proposes a new licensing law that would give it power to approve or deny media licenses. How would this affect press freedom? →

5. You are comparing news coverage of the same event from two different countries' media. One is from a country with strong press freedom; the other from a country where media is state-controlled. What differences might you expect? →

(A) The independent media is likely to include multiple perspectives and critical viewpoints, while the state media may present only the government's preferred narrative

(B) Write a well-researched article or create a social media campaign explaining the case, citing press freedom organizations' reports and calling for the journalist's release

(C) Research student press rights, consult with their faculty advisor, and consider

whether the story serves the public interest of the student body

(D) Governments claim that certain information could endanger national safety, though this justification is sometimes used to hide embarrassing or corrupt activities

(E) It would effectively eliminate independent journalism by giving the government the power to shut down any outlet that criticizes it

13. Investigative Journalism

Circle the correct answer

121. What are the 'Five Ws and One H' that every news story should answer?

(A) Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How — the six fundamental questions that provide readers with the essential facts of a news event (B) Win, Wish, Wonder, Worry, Wait, and Hope, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) Write, Watch, Work, Warn, Wait, and Help, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Who, Which, While, Whenever, Whatever, and However, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

122. What are the key ethical principles that professional journalists follow?

(A) Journalists should never publish stories that make powerful people or organizations look bad, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) Journalists must always show both sides of every story equally, regardless of the evidence, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) The only ethical rule is to publish stories that get the most readers and clicks, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) Professional journalism ethics include: seeking truth and reporting it accurately, minimizing harm to sources and subjects, acting independently (avoiding conflicts of interest), and being accountable and transparent about methods and mistakes

123. What is a 'peer-reviewed' source, and why is it considered more reliable than a non-peer-reviewed source?

(A) Peer-reviewed means the author's friends read it and said it was good, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) A peer-reviewed source has been evaluated by independent experts in the same field before publication — they check the methodology, evidence, and conclusions for errors and validity. This process doesn't guarantee the research is correct, but it provides a quality control layer that non-reviewed sources lack (C) Peer-reviewed means it was reviewed by peers of the same age, like students reviewing other students' work, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) Peer review means the article was fact-checked by a newspaper editor, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

124. What is a 'wire service' like the Associated Press (AP) or Reuters, and why are they considered reliable sources?

(A) Wire services are government agencies that produce official news reports, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) Wire services are telegraph companies that transmit messages using Morse code, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) Wire services are social media companies that aggregate trending posts, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Wire services are news agencies that gather and distribute news reports to subscribing newspapers, TV stations, and websites worldwide. They're considered reliable because they serve clients across the political spectrum (so they can't afford to be partisan), have large global reporting staffs, and follow strict accuracy and verification standards

125. You are asked to judge two student news articles about the same school event. Article A has three named sources and quotes, includes context about why the event matters, and separates facts from the writer's opinion. Article B has dramatic language, no named sources, and mixes opinion throughout. Which is the better piece of journalism and why?

(A) Article A is stronger because it uses attributed sources, provides context, and maintains the fact/opinion distinction — the core principles of credible journalism (B) Both articles are equally good because they cover the same event (C) Article B is better because dramatic language makes it more engaging to read (D) Article A is worse because having too many sources makes it confusing

126. What is an 'embargo' in journalism?

(A) A penalty given to journalists who publish false information (B) An agreement between a source and journalists that information can be shared in advance but not published until a specific date and time (C) A government ban that prevents journalists from covering a specific topic (D) A rule that says journalists cannot interview people under age 18

Write the answer

127. A graph in a news article shows that ice cream sales and drowning deaths both increase during summer months. The article implies that eating ice cream causes drowning. What statistical concept explains why this conclusion is wrong?

Answer: _____

128. What type of data visualization would be most appropriate for showing how your city's population has changed every decade from 1950 to 2020?

Answer: _____

129. Some argue that investigative journalism is unnecessary in the age of social media because 'citizen journalists' can expose wrongdoing faster. Evaluate this claim.

Answer: _____

130. What is the 'ad hominem' logical fallacy and how is it used to deflect attention from substantive arguments?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. You see a social media post claiming that a new school policy will require students to attend classes on weekends. The post has been shared 5,000 times and has angry comments. How would you apply media literacy skills to evaluate this claim? →

2. Should social media platforms be considered 'publishers' (responsible for content, like newspapers) or 'platforms' (neutral carriers of user speech, like phone companies)? Evaluate the implications of each classification. →

3. As editor-in-chief of your student newspaper, you receive three breaking stories at the same time: (1) a water main break flooding the gym, (2) a rumor that the principal is resigning, and (3) a student art show opening tonight. How do you prioritize coverage? →

4. Evaluate this statement: 'In the age of AI-generated content, professional journalism is more important than ever.' Do you agree or disagree, and what evidence supports your position? →

5. What is a 'beat' in journalism? →

(A) Agree — AI can generate vast quantities of text but cannot independently verify facts, cultivate confidential sources, make ethical judgments about harm vs. public interest, or be held accountable for errors; professional journalism's verification and accountability functions become more critical as AI-generated content floods the information ecosystem

(B) Classifying them as publishers would make them legally liable for user content but could lead to excessive censorship; classifying them as platforms protects free expression but allows harmful content to spread unchecked — the reality may require a new legal framework

(C) Check the original source (is it from the school's official channels?), search for coverage from credible local news outlets, read the actual policy document if available, and consider whether the emotional framing might be exaggerating or distorting the real policy

(D) The water main break is highest priority (confirmed, immediate impact, safety concerns), followed by the principal rumor (high significance but needs verification before publishing), then the art show (important but not time-sensitive for breaking coverage)

(E) A specific subject area, institution, or geographic region that a reporter covers regularly — such as education, city hall, crime, sports, technology, or health — allowing them to develop expertise and source relationships in that area

14. Investigative Journalism

Circle the correct answer

131. What is a 'source' in journalism?

(A) A person, document, recording, or dataset that provides information for a news story — journalists rely on multiple sources to verify facts and present different perspectives (B) The website or app where you read the news, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) The editor who assigns stories to reporters, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) The company that pays for news advertisements, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

132. What does 'objectivity' mean in journalism, and is it truly possible for a reporter to be completely objective?

(A) Objectivity means never including any human emotions in news stories, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) Objectivity is outdated and reporters should openly share their opinions in news stories, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) Objectivity is easy — reporters just write down exactly what they see and hear, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Objectivity means striving to present facts fairly and without personal bias, giving all relevant perspectives a voice. While complete objectivity is impossible (every person has perspectives), professional journalists minimize bias through rigorous methods: multiple sources, fact verification, balanced representation, and transparency about limitations

133. What is 'clickbait,' and how can you identify it?

(A) Clickbait means an article that requires you to click through multiple pages, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) Clickbait is only found on social media, never on news websites, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) Clickbait is any article that appears in a search engine result, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Clickbait is content with sensationalized, misleading, or intentionally vague headlines designed to lure clicks rather than inform — identifiable by exaggerated claims, emotional manipulation, withholding key information ('You won't believe...'), and a gap between what the headline promises and what the article delivers

134. Compare these two ledes for the same story: Lede A: 'There was a meeting of the school board last night.' Lede B: 'The school board voted 5-2 Tuesday night to close Jefferson Elementary, affecting 400 students and their families.' Which is more effective and why?

(A) Lede A is better because it's shorter and simpler (B) Lede A is better because it

doesn't reveal the outcome, creating suspense (C) Both ledes are equally effective because they cover the same event (D) Lede B is more effective because it identifies the specific action (voted to close), the result (5-2), and the impact (400 students), giving readers the essential news immediately

135. You're writing a data journalism story about school lunch nutrition in your district. You have a spreadsheet with nutritional data for every school lunch served over one year. What is the first step you should take with this data?

(A) Publish the entire spreadsheet on the school website for transparency (B) Immediately create charts and graphs to make the data look professional (C) Clean the data by checking for errors, missing values, inconsistencies, and formatting problems before doing any analysis (D) Send the raw spreadsheet to your editor and let them decide what to do with it

136. You want to create a multimedia story about your school's water fountain quality. You have test results, student opinions, and photos. Design a plan for combining text, data visualization, photography, and interactive elements into a compelling digital story.

(A) Only use photographs because people don't read text online, which reflects how this process typically works in practice (B) Create one giant infographic containing all information on a single image, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) Just write a long text article because multimedia elements distract from serious journalism, since this is how these institutions are designed to function (D) Lead with a strong lede about the key finding, embed a map showing fountain locations color-coded by water quality, include bar charts comparing test results to safety standards, weave in student quotes with photos, and add an interactive element letting readers filter data by building or floor

Write the answer

137. What is 'follow the money' as an investigative journalism strategy?

Answer: _____

138. What is the 'illusory truth effect' and why does it make repetition a powerful propaganda tool?

Answer: _____

139. Why does misinformation spread faster on social media than accurate information?

Answer: _____

140. Some people argue that algorithms should be transparent — that social media companies should reveal exactly how their news feed algorithms work. Others say this would allow bad actors to 'game' the system. Evaluate both sides.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A journalist embeds with a military unit during a conflict and forms close bonds with the soldiers. When they return, their reporting is criticized for being too sympathetic to the military and not covering civilian impacts. Analyze the ethical challenge of 'access journalism.' →
2. What is 'source diversity,' and why should journalists interview people from different backgrounds and perspectives? →
3. A popular social media influencer with 2 million followers shares a news article about a health topic. A medical journalist at a reputable newspaper writes a different article on the same topic with different conclusions. Which factor should matter most when evaluating which source to trust? →
4. Analyze how the order of information in a news story can influence reader perception. If a story about a new school policy starts with parent complaints (paragraphs 1-3) before explaining the policy's benefits (paragraphs 4-6), how might this affect the reader? →
5. A local news outlet publishes a data story claiming that 'most car accidents happen within 5 miles of home.' Evaluate the strength of this claim. What important context might be missing? →

(A) Source diversity means deliberately including voices from different demographics, viewpoints, expertise areas, and lived experiences in reporting — it produces more accurate, complete, and fair journalism because any single perspective gives only a partial picture of complex issues

(B) Access journalism creates a tension between the extraordinary reporting access gained through close relationships and the risk that those relationships compromise objectivity — the journalist may unconsciously protect sources they've bonded with or underreport information that reflects poorly on them

(C) The claim ignores that most driving happens within 5 miles of home — if you spend 70% of your driving time near home, it's expected that 70% of accidents occur there; the claim confuses proximity with danger

(D) Readers tend to remember and be influenced most by information presented first; leading with complaints frames the policy negatively before readers encounter the benefits

(E) The expertise and methodology behind each source's claims, not the popularity or follower count of the person sharing it

15. Investigative Journalism

Circle the correct answer

141. What is 'attribution' in news writing, and why is it important?

(A) Attribution tells readers where information in a story came from — who said it, which document it's from, or what study it references — so readers can evaluate the credibility and potential bias of each claim (B) Attribution means giving credit to the newspaper that originally broke the story, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) Attribution means listing the reporter's educational qualifications, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Attribution means adding footnotes and a bibliography like an academic paper, and this principle applies across similar situations

142. What does 'freedom of the press' mean, and why is it considered important in a democracy?

(A) It means anyone can print anything without fact-checking, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Freedom of the press is the right of journalists and news organizations to report news, express opinions, and investigate government actions without censorship or punishment — it serves as a 'watchdog' that holds powerful people and institutions accountable (C) It means newspapers and TV stations don't have to pay taxes, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) It means the government must provide free newspapers to all citizens, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

143. What is the 'CRAAP test' used for evaluating sources?

(A) A software program that automatically rates news articles as true or false, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) CRAAP stands for Currency (how recent), Relevance (how related to your topic), Authority (who created it and their expertise), Accuracy (is it supported by evidence), and Purpose (why was it created — to inform, persuade, sell, or entertain) (C) A chemical test used to detect fake ink on printed newspapers, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) A test that measures how bad or 'crappy' a news article is on a scale of 1-10, and this principle applies across similar situations

144. A news website publishes a story with the headline: 'SHOCKING: Scientists Say Chocolate Cures All Diseases!' The article cites one small study with 12 participants. What red flags should a critical reader identify?

(A) The article is unreliable only because it's about food and not politics (B) The only problem is the headline uses capital letters (C) There are no red flags because the article cites a scientific study (D) The sensationalized headline exaggerates the finding, the study sample size is too small to draw broad conclusions, and no other

research is cited

145. What is the purpose of a 'fact-check box' or 'fact-check sidebar' that some news organizations include alongside their main stories?

(A) It contains advertisements disguised as factual information (B) It shows how the story was approved by the government before publication (C) It isolates and verifies specific claims made in the story, providing readers with a quick way to assess the accuracy of key statements (D) It lists all the mistakes the reporter made while writing the story

146. What is 'data journalism'?

(A) Journalism that uses statistical analysis, databases, and data visualization to find and tell stories that traditional reporting methods might miss (B) Journalism that is only published in digital format, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) Any news story that mentions a number or statistic, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) A type of reporting that replaces human journalists with computers, and this principle applies across similar situations

Write the answer

147. What is a 'choropleth map' and when is it used in data journalism?

Answer: _____

148. What is 'propaganda'?

Answer: _____

149. Evaluate the following scenario: A tech company offers your student newspaper free laptops and software in exchange for 'favorable coverage' of their education products. Some staff members want to accept because the equipment would improve the newspaper's quality. As editor, make and justify your decision.

Answer: _____

150. How has the role of a journalist changed in the era of social media and 24/7 news, compared to the era of daily print newspapers?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What is 'fact-checking,' and why has it become more important in the digital age? →
2. Your school is starting a student news blog. Which practice would best help your audience trust the blog as a reliable news source? →
3. You are writing a news story about a new school recycling program. You interview the principal, a student leader, and a janitor who manages waste collection. How should you incorporate quotes from all three sources? →

4. What is a 'sample size' and why does it matter when evaluating data used in news stories? →

5. What role do captions and annotations play in data visualizations published in news stories? →

(A) Use direct quotes for each person's unique perspective — the principal on the school's goals, the student on peer engagement, and the janitor on practical logistics — weaving them together with paraphrased context

(B) Clearly labeling opinion pieces separately from news reports and always citing sources

(C) Fact-checking is the process of verifying the accuracy of claims, statistics, and statements in news stories or public discourse — it's more important now because social media enables misinformation to spread rapidly to millions of people before corrections can catch up

(D) They provide context, explain what the reader should notice, identify data sources, and make the visualization accessible to readers who may not be familiar with chart types

(E) The number of observations or participants in a study — larger samples are generally more reliable because they're less affected by random variation and outliers

16. Investigative Journalism

Circle the correct answer

151. What is 'media bias,' and how does the Ad Fontes Media or AllSides bias rating system work?

(A) Media bias ratings only measure whether a source publishes true or false information, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) These rating systems are run by the government to control which news sources are allowed, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (C) All news sources rated as 'center' are automatically the most reliable, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (D) Media bias is the systematic tendency of a news outlet to favor certain political perspectives in its coverage. Rating systems like Ad Fontes Media and AllSides categorize outlets on a spectrum from left to center to right, based on analysis of their content, story selection, and framing — helping readers understand where different sources fall on the political spectrum

152. What is a 'news algorithm' on social media platforms?

(A) A government regulation that controls what news gets published (B) A secret code journalists use to communicate with each other (C) Software that decides which stories appear in your feed based on your behavior and preferences (D) A reporter

who writes stories specifically for social media

153. Design a complete news story structure for covering your school's annual science fair. Include the type of lede you would write, at least three sources you would interview, and explain how you would organize the story from beginning to end.

(A) Write the story before the fair happens based on what you think will happen, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (B) Just write about whichever project the reporter personally found most interesting, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) A strong plan would include: a specific lede highlighting the winning project or most surprising result; interviews with the winner, a judge, and a participant who didn't win (for diverse perspectives); organization following the inverted pyramid with the most newsworthy results first, then context about the fair, quotes from sources, and background details (D) List every single project in alphabetical order with no narrative structure, making this the most widely accepted explanation

154. Compare how the same unemployment data could be presented to tell two opposite stories: one that makes the economy look like it's improving and one that makes it look like it's getting worse. What techniques might each version use?

(A) Both versions would look identical because data can only be presented one way, based on the principles established in democratic governance (B) The positive version might start the graph at a recent peak to show decline, cherry-pick favorable months, and highlight month-over-month improvement; the negative version might use a longer time range showing a historical low, emphasize the total number of unemployed, and truncate the Y-axis to exaggerate changes (C) The only difference would be the headline — the graph would be the same, and this principle applies across similar situations, since this is how these institutions are designed to function (D) You can't tell two different stories with the same data because facts don't change, which reflects how this process typically works in practice

155. What is 'undercover journalism' and what ethical debates does it raise?

(A) It refers to journalism published under a pen name for the writer's safety, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Undercover journalism is any reporting done on confidential or classified topics, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) Undercover journalism involves reporters concealing their identity to gain access to information — it raises debates about deception, privacy, proportionality, and whether the information could have been obtained through conventional reporting methods (D) Undercover journalism is illegal in all circumstances, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

156. Compare the 'testimonial' and 'plain folks' propaganda techniques. How does each manipulate trust?

(A) Both techniques use the same approach but target different age groups, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) Testimonial uses a famous or

authoritative figure's endorsement to transfer their credibility to a cause; plain folks portrays a leader or product as relatable to ordinary people — both bypass evidence by manipulating social trust (C) Testimonial uses written evidence while plain folks uses visual evidence, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Testimonial is ethical while plain folks is unethical, and this principle applies across similar situations

Write the answer

157. What is the role of an 'ombudsman' or 'public editor' at a news organization?

Answer: _____

158. You are producing a multimedia story about a new community garden project. Plan which specific elements (text, video, photo, audio, data visualization, interactive) you would use for each part of the story, explaining why each format is the best choice for that content.

Answer: _____

159. What is the difference between a 'news story' and an 'opinion piece'?

Answer: _____

160. You see a shocking news headline shared by a friend on social media. Before sharing it yourself, which steps should you take to verify it?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A news organization creates an interactive map showing crime rates in different neighborhoods. Some readers complain that the map unfairly stigmatizes certain areas. How can the news organization present this data responsibly? →

2. How can a misleading scale on a graph's Y-axis distort the appearance of data? →

3. How does the 'appeal to fear' propaganda technique work? →

4. Analyze the following headline from two different news outlets covering the same event: Outlet A: 'Protesters Clash with Police at City Hall.' Outlet B: 'Police Crack Down on Peaceful Demonstrators at City Hall.' How does word choice reveal each outlet's framing? →

5. What is a 'primary source' of data versus a 'secondary source' of data in journalism? →

(A) Starting the Y-axis at a number other than zero can make small differences appear dramatically large, or truncating the axis can hide significant variation

(B) A primary source is the original data (a government database, survey results, a direct document), while a secondary source is someone else's analysis or interpretation of that data

(C) It creates anxiety about a threat (real or exaggerated) and then presents a specific action, person, or policy as the only way to be safe, bypassing rational analysis

(D) Outlet A frames the event as mutual conflict ('clash' implies both sides are aggressive), while Outlet B frames police as aggressors ('crack down') against innocent people ('peaceful demonstrators') — each headline shapes the reader's perception before they read the article

(E) Include context such as poverty rates, population density, and policing patterns alongside crime data; use normalized rates instead of raw counts; and explain what the data does and doesn't show

Answer Key

1. D — Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How — the six fundamental questions that provide readers with the essential facts of a news event
2. C — A news story reports facts and events objectively using verified information and sources, while an opinion piece (editorial, column, or op-ed) expresses the writer's personal viewpoint, analysis, or argument about an issue
3. A — A person, document, recording, or dataset that provides information for a news story — journalists rely on multiple sources to verify facts and present different perspectives
4. B — The opening paragraph of a news story that summarizes the most important information — typically answering the key Five Ws questions to hook the reader immediately
5. B — Freedom of the press is the right of journalists and news organizations to report news, express opinions, and investigate government actions without censorship or punishment — it serves as a 'watchdog' that holds powerful people and institutions accountable
6. B — News values include timeliness (recent events), proximity (local relevance), impact (how many people are affected), prominence (involvement of well-known people), conflict (disagreements or tensions), novelty (unusual or surprising events), and human interest (emotional stories)
7. A writing structure that puts the most important information at the top (the lede), followed by supporting details in descending order of importance, with the least essential information at the bottom
8. A byline is the line at the beginning of a news article that identifies the author

(reporter) who wrote the story, sometimes including their title, beat, or the news organization they work for

9. The same observable event can be reported very differently depending on what additional context and sourcing the reporter provides — without context, a story might be technically accurate but miss the real significance, while good reporting reveals the 'why' behind what happened
10. A specific subject area, institution, or geographic region that a reporter covers regularly — such as education, city hall, crime, sports, technology, or health — allowing them to develop expertise and source relationships in that area
Matching (foundations_of_journalism_gr56): 1→E, 2→A, 3→D, 4→B, 5→C
11. D — Credibility is the trustworthiness and reliability of a source — determined by factors like the source's track record for accuracy, transparency about methods and funding, use of evidence, willingness to correct errors, and reputation among other journalists and experts
12. B — CRAAP stands for Currency (how recent), Relevance (how related to your topic), Authority (who created it and their expertise), Accuracy (is it supported by evidence), and Purpose (why was it created — to inform, persuade, sell, or entertain)
13. C — Credible news organizations have professional editorial processes, named reporters with verifiable identities, correction policies, contact information, transparent ownership, and membership in press associations. Misinformation sites may look professional but lack these indicators — often having no named authors, no corrections page, sensational headlines, and hidden ownership
14. D — An anonymous source provides information on the condition that their identity won't be revealed publicly. It's acceptable when the information is important to the public interest and the source faces genuine risk (losing their job, legal retaliation, or physical danger) by being named — but journalists should try to get on-the-record sources whenever possible
15. D — Lateral reading means opening new tabs to research what other sources say about the website or claim you're evaluating, rather than only reading the source itself — because a biased or fraudulent source can appear convincing on its own, but checking what independent experts and fact-checkers say about it reveals its true reliability
16. A — Misinformation is false or inaccurate information shared without intent to deceive — the person sharing it genuinely believes it's true. Disinformation is deliberately false information created and spread with the intent to mislead, manipulate, or cause harm

17. Ownership and funding can influence editorial decisions — a news outlet owned by a political figure might downplay stories critical of that person, while an outlet funded by an industry group might avoid negative coverage of that industry. Knowing who pays the bills helps readers identify potential conflicts of interest
18. Steps: (1) Check the source — is this a credible health or science publication? (2) Find the original study — does the article link to or name the actual research? (3) Check the study details — sample size, peer review status, who funded it (a chocolate company?). (4) Look for expert reactions — what do doctors and other scientists say? (5) Check for exaggeration — did the study say 'cures' or something weaker like 'may help reduce'?
19. Confirmation bias is the tendency to seek out, believe, and remember information that supports what you already think, while ignoring or dismissing information that contradicts your existing beliefs — it causes people to gravitate toward news sources that confirm their views and reject sources that challenge them
20. Clickbait is content with sensationalized, misleading, or intentionally vague headlines designed to lure clicks rather than inform — identifiable by exaggerated claims, emotional manipulation, withholding key information ('You won't believe...'), and a gap between what the headline promises and what the article delivers
Matching (source_evaluation_and_credibility_gr56): 1→B, 2→A, 3→C, 4→E, 5→D
21. C — Software that decides which stories appear in your feed based on your behavior and preferences
22. B — A situation where algorithms only show you content that matches your existing views and interests
23. B — Reporting done by ordinary people who are not professional journalists, often using smartphones and social media
24. C — The site may prioritize sensational or attention-grabbing stories that generate more clicks and ad views
25. B — To generate subscription revenue so the organization can fund quality journalism without relying entirely on advertising
26. B — Information spreads so quickly that unverified or incorrect details often circulate before journalists can confirm facts
27. An aggregator collects and links to stories from many sources, while a publisher creates original reporting with its own journalists

28. Clearly labeling opinion pieces separately from news reports and always citing sources
29. Check whether established news organizations are reporting the same story, look at the original source, and check the publication date
30. Clearly label the content as 'Sponsored' or 'Paid Advertisement' so readers know it's not independent journalism
Matching (Digital Literacy and Online News): 1→B, 2→D, 3→E, 4→A, 5→C
31. C — A paragraph near the top of the story that explains why the story matters and gives the reader the essential context
32. C — A direct quote uses the source's exact words in quotation marks, while a paraphrase restates the source's ideas in the reporter's own words
33. D — An agreement between a source and journalists that information can be shared in advance but not published until a specific date and time
34. C — Active voice is more direct, concise, and clearly identifies who performed the action, making stories easier to read
35. D — Prepared questions ensure the journalist covers all necessary topics, shows respect for the source's time, and can ask informed follow-up questions based on prior research
36. D — Placing the most important information deep in the story instead of highlighting it at the beginning
37. Hard news is time-sensitive, uses the inverted pyramid, and focuses on facts; features are less time-sensitive, use narrative techniques, and explore topics in depth
38. Use direct quotes for each person's unique perspective — the principal on the school's goals, the student on peer engagement, and the janitor on practical logistics — weaving them together with paraphrased context
39. The seventh-grade student council organized a fundraiser and raised over \$2,000 for the animal shelter.
40. Clarify whether the comment is on or off the record, and if on the record, consider whether it's relevant to your story and whether publishing it would be fair and responsible
Matching (Writing and Reporting Skills): 1→D, 2→B, 3→C, 4→E, 5→A
41. B — Journalism that uses statistical analysis, databases, and data visualization to find and tell stories that traditional reporting methods might miss

42. B — A visual representation that combines images, charts, icons, and text to present information or data in an easily understandable format
43. B — A primary source is the original data (a government database, survey results, a direct document), while a secondary source is someone else's analysis or interpretation of that data
44. C — Bar charts allow readers to compare lengths on a common baseline, which the human eye does more accurately than comparing pie slice angles and areas
45. C — They formally asked a government agency to release public records or data that the agency was required by law to provide
46. D — Starting the Y-axis at a number other than zero can make small differences appear dramatically large, or truncating the axis can hide significant variation
47. A line chart, because it effectively shows trends and changes in a single variable over time
48. Clean the data by checking for errors, missing values, inconsistencies, and formatting problems before doing any analysis
49. A horizontal or vertical bar chart would be most appropriate, with categories ordered by popularity (Sports at top, Robotics at bottom), clearly labeled with both the count and percentage of respondents
50. Include context such as poverty rates, population density, and policing patterns alongside crime data; use normalized rates instead of raw counts; and explain what the data does and doesn't show
Matching (Data Journalism and Visual Storytelling): 1→E, 2→B, 3→C, 4→A, 5→D
51. D — Investigative journalism involves in-depth, original research conducted over weeks or months to expose wrongdoing, corruption, or systemic problems that powerful people or institutions try to keep hidden
52. A — An insider within an organization who reveals hidden information about wrongdoing, illegal activity, or dangers to a journalist or the public
53. C — A law that protects journalists from being forced by courts to reveal confidential sources or unpublished materials
54. B — It provides the ethical justification for investigations — stories that serve the public interest (exposing corruption, protecting safety, informing voters) justify the resources, intrusion, and potential harm involved
55. A — A document trail is a series of written records (emails, contracts, financial records, memos) that provides verifiable evidence — documents can't change

their story or misremember events like human sources can

56. C — Libel is publishing a false statement that damages someone's reputation — investigative journalists must ensure every claim is accurate and well-documented because false statements can result in costly lawsuits
57. Request the district's food service budget, per-school spending breakdowns, meal quality reports, and vendor contracts; look for disparities between schools, especially comparing wealthy and lower-income neighborhoods
58. Seek independent corroboration through public financial records, additional sources, and documentation rather than relying solely on the anonymous claim
59. Contact the accused for their response (right of reply), have the story reviewed by an editor and possibly a lawyer, verify all facts with multiple sources, and consider the potential impact on all people mentioned
60. Deep Throat was a senior FBI official (Mark Felt) who risked his career and possibly criminal prosecution by leaking information — revealing his identity would have ended the flow of information and endangered him personally
Matching (Investigative Journalism and Accountability): 1→E, 2→B, 3→C, 4→A, 5→D
61. A — Misinformation is false information shared without intent to harm (the person believes it's true), while disinformation is deliberately false information created and spread to deceive or manipulate
62. D — Communication designed to influence people's attitudes, beliefs, or actions by using emotional appeals, selective facts, and persuasion techniques rather than balanced evidence
63. D — Pressuring people to adopt a belief or behavior by claiming that 'everyone else is doing it' — exploiting the desire to belong and conform
64. D — It creates anxiety about a threat (real or exaggerated) and then presents a specific action, person, or policy as the only way to be safe, bypassing rational analysis
65. C — Misrepresenting someone's actual argument with a weaker or distorted version, then attacking that distorted version instead of the real argument — making it easier to 'win' the debate without addressing the actual point
66. C — Misinformation often triggers stronger emotional reactions (surprise, outrage, fear) that compel sharing, while accurate information tends to be more nuanced and less emotionally provocative
67. Check the original source (is it from the school's official channels?), search for

coverage from credible local news outlets, read the actual policy document if available, and consider whether the emotional framing might be exaggerating or distorting the real policy

68. This uses 'card stacking' (selecting only facts that support your narrative) combined with 'appeal to emotion' — one dinner is cherry-picked to create an impression of habitual extravagance, ignoring the full context of the opponent's life
69. Lead with the accurate information from credible health authorities, explain why specific false claims are wrong using expert sources, avoid repeating the false claims in headlines, and provide readers with verification tools
70. A coordinated campaign that disguises itself as a genuine grassroots movement, using fake accounts, paid supporters, or manufactured testimonials to create the illusion of widespread public support
Matching (Propaganda, Misinformation, and Media Ethics): 1→C, 2→B, 3→D, 4→E, 5→A
71. D — The water main break is highest priority (confirmed, immediate impact, safety concerns), followed by the principal rumor (high significance but needs verification before publishing), then the art show (important but not time-sensitive for breaking coverage)
72. D — The ability to make informed decisions about which stories to pursue, how to frame them, what gets prominence, and what ethical standards to apply — it requires synthesizing news values, audience needs, ethical principles, and practical constraints
73. A — A news story told through multiple integrated formats — text, video, audio, interactive graphics, photos, and data visualizations — designed so each format contributes something unique that other formats cannot
74. C — Understanding the audience helps journalists present important information in accessible, engaging ways; pandering means only covering what the audience already wants to hear, avoiding important-but-uncomfortable stories
75. C — Journalists now must produce content faster across multiple platforms, engage directly with audiences, verify user-generated content, combat misinformation, and work in a more competitive attention economy — while the core mission of informing the public remains unchanged
76. B — Immediately publish a correction noting the specific error and the accurate information, append a correction notice to the original article, and review how the error occurred to prevent future mistakes

77. Text for context and background; video interviews with gardeners showing their passion; photo essay of the garden's transformation over time; audio of ambient garden sounds and bird calls; data visualization comparing neighborhood food access before and after; interactive map showing garden locations and what each plot grows
78. Review the reporter's notes and recordings against the published quote, determine if the quote is accurate or was misrepresented, and if an error was made, publish a correction and apologize — if the quote is accurate, explain the verification process to the source and stand behind the reporting
79. Social media creates constant pressure to publish instantly, as competitors and citizens can break news in seconds — but newsrooms must resist this pressure because publishing errors permanently damages credibility, and corrections rarely reach as many people as the original error
80. Print benefits from longer-form narrative, carefully selected photos, and designed page layouts that guide the eye; the website benefits from multimedia embedding (video, audio, interactive charts), hyperlinks to sources, real-time updates, and reader engagement features
Matching (Master Editor: Multimedia Newsroom Capstone): 1→E, 2→C, 3→A, 4→D, 5→B
81. D — The main presenter who hosts a news program
82. A — A short audio or video clip of someone speaking
83. C — A digital audio program available for download or streaming
84. D — Supplemental footage that illustrates what the reporter is describing
85. A — A list of stories in the order they will appear in a newscast
86. B — Broadcasting in real time as events happen
87. It helps convey the mood and seriousness of a story to listeners
88. Podcasts are on-demand and listeners choose when to listen
89. To introduce the topic and grab the audience's attention
90. Because listeners cannot re-read information, so clarity is essential
Matching (Journalism and Media): 1→E, 2→B, 3→D, 4→C, 5→A
91. D — The practice of telling news stories primarily through photographs
92. B — The text accompanying a photo that explains who, what, when, and where
93. C — A composition guideline that divides the frame into a three-by-three grid to

place key elements at intersections

94. C — A series of photographs that tell a complete story about a topic or event
95. A — Trimming the edges of a photograph to improve composition or remove distracting elements
96. D — A photographer famous for documenting the Great Depression, including the iconic 'Migrant Mother' image
97. Without context, viewers may misinterpret what is happening in the image
98. Low angles can make subjects look powerful, while high angles can make them appear small or vulnerable
99. A candid photo captures people in natural, unposed moments, while a staged photo is arranged by the photographer
100. To reduce distractions and draw attention to emotion, texture, and composition
Matching (Journalism and Media): 1→C, 2→B, 3→A, 4→D, 5→E
101. A — An article that expresses the official opinion of the newspaper's editorial board on a public issue
102. C — An opinion piece written by someone who does not work for the publication, typically an outside expert or community member
103. A — A clear sentence that states the writer's main argument or position
104. D — To present evidence or reasoning that disproves or weakens an opposing claim
105. B — A fact can be verified with evidence, while an opinion is a personal belief or judgment
106. A — A tendency to favor one perspective over others, which is expected and transparent in opinion writing
107. To help readers distinguish between factual reporting and subjective viewpoints
108. Evidence provides factual support that makes the argument more persuasive and credible
109. It means acknowledging the strongest opposing viewpoint and explaining why your position is still stronger
110. Persuasive language uses logic and evidence to convince, while manipulative language uses emotional tricks to deceive
Matching (Journalism and Media): 1→B, 2→E, 3→C, 4→D, 5→A

111. C — The right of journalists and news organizations to publish information without government censorship or restriction
112. D — The First Amendment
113. D — The suppression or restriction of information, speech, or media by a government or other authority
114. A — It monitors and defends press freedom worldwide and publishes an annual World Press Freedom Index
115. B — A law that protects journalists from being forced to reveal their confidential sources
116. B — News organizations owned and controlled by the government
117. Because an informed public needs independent journalism to hold government accountable and make educated voting decisions
118. It enables wider access to information but also creates new tools for governments to surveil and censor journalists
119. Other journalists self-censor out of fear, leading to less accountability and a less informed public
120. Prior restraint blocks publication before it happens, while post-publication consequences occur after the information is already public
Matching (Journalism and Media): 1→D, 2→C, 3→B, 4→E, 5→A
121. A — Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How — the six fundamental questions that provide readers with the essential facts of a news event
122. D — Professional journalism ethics include: seeking truth and reporting it accurately, minimizing harm to sources and subjects, acting independently (avoiding conflicts of interest), and being accountable and transparent about methods and mistakes
123. B — A peer-reviewed source has been evaluated by independent experts in the same field before publication — they check the methodology, evidence, and conclusions for errors and validity. This process doesn't guarantee the research is correct, but it provides a quality control layer that non-reviewed sources lack
124. D — Wire services are news agencies that gather and distribute news reports to subscribing newspapers, TV stations, and websites worldwide. They're considered reliable because they serve clients across the political spectrum (so they can't afford to be partisan), have large global reporting staffs, and follow strict accuracy and verification standards

125. A — Article A is stronger because it uses attributed sources, provides context, and maintains the fact/opinion distinction — the core principles of credible journalism
126. B — An agreement between a source and journalists that information can be shared in advance but not published until a specific date and time
127. Correlation does not equal causation — both variables increase in summer because of a third factor (hot weather), not because one causes the other
128. A line chart, because it effectively shows trends and changes in a single variable over time
129. While social media enables rapid exposure, professional investigative journalism provides systematic evidence gathering, legal expertise, editorial oversight, and institutional protection that citizen journalism typically lacks — both play important but different roles
130. Attacking the person making an argument rather than the argument itself — it deflects attention by making the audience focus on the messenger's character instead of evaluating the evidence and logic of their claim
Matching (Investigative Journalism): 1→C, 2→B, 3→D, 4→A, 5→E
131. A — A person, document, recording, or dataset that provides information for a news story — journalists rely on multiple sources to verify facts and present different perspectives
132. D — Objectivity means striving to present facts fairly and without personal bias, giving all relevant perspectives a voice. While complete objectivity is impossible (every person has perspectives), professional journalists minimize bias through rigorous methods: multiple sources, fact verification, balanced representation, and transparency about limitations
133. D — Clickbait is content with sensationalized, misleading, or intentionally vague headlines designed to lure clicks rather than inform — identifiable by exaggerated claims, emotional manipulation, withholding key information ('You won't believe...'), and a gap between what the headline promises and what the article delivers
134. D — Lede B is more effective because it identifies the specific action (voted to close), the result (5-2), and the impact (400 students), giving readers the essential news immediately
135. C — Clean the data by checking for errors, missing values, inconsistencies, and formatting problems before doing any analysis

136. D — Lead with a strong lede about the key finding, embed a map showing fountain locations color-coded by water quality, include bar charts comparing test results to safety standards, weave in student quotes with photos, and add an interactive element letting readers filter data by building or floor
137. Tracing financial transactions, funding sources, and spending patterns to reveal hidden connections, conflicts of interest, or corruption that wouldn't be visible through interviews alone
138. The psychological tendency to believe information is true simply because you've heard it multiple times — repetition creates familiarity, which the brain mistakes for accuracy
139. Misinformation often triggers stronger emotional reactions (surprise, outrage, fear) that compel sharing, while accurate information tends to be more nuanced and less emotionally provocative
140. Transparency enables democratic accountability and allows users to understand how their information environment is shaped; however, full technical disclosure could let manipulators exploit the algorithm — a balance like independent audits may serve both goals
Matching (Investigative Journalism): 1→B, 2→A, 3→E, 4→D, 5→C
141. A — Attribution tells readers where information in a story came from — who said it, which document it's from, or what study it references — so readers can evaluate the credibility and potential bias of each claim
142. B — Freedom of the press is the right of journalists and news organizations to report news, express opinions, and investigate government actions without censorship or punishment — it serves as a 'watchdog' that holds powerful people and institutions accountable
143. B — CRAAP stands for Currency (how recent), Relevance (how related to your topic), Authority (who created it and their expertise), Accuracy (is it supported by evidence), and Purpose (why was it created — to inform, persuade, sell, or entertain)
144. D — The sensationalized headline exaggerates the finding, the study sample size is too small to draw broad conclusions, and no other research is cited
145. C — It isolates and verifies specific claims made in the story, providing readers with a quick way to assess the accuracy of key statements
146. A — Journalism that uses statistical analysis, databases, and data visualization to find and tell stories that traditional reporting methods might miss

147. A map where geographic regions are shaded or colored based on a data value, used to show how a variable (like population density or election results) varies across locations
148. Communication designed to influence people's attitudes, beliefs, or actions by using emotional appeals, selective facts, and persuasion techniques rather than balanced evidence
149. Decline the offer — accepting gifts conditional on favorable coverage would compromise the newspaper's editorial independence and credibility; even excellent equipment isn't worth the perception (or reality) that your coverage can be bought
150. Journalists now must produce content faster across multiple platforms, engage directly with audiences, verify user-generated content, combat misinformation, and work in a more competitive attention economy — while the core mission of informing the public remains unchanged
Matching (Investigative Journalism): 1→C, 2→B, 3→A, 4→E, 5→D
151. D — Media bias is the systematic tendency of a news outlet to favor certain political perspectives in its coverage. Rating systems like Ad Fontes Media and AllSides categorize outlets on a spectrum from left to center to right, based on analysis of their content, story selection, and framing — helping readers understand where different sources fall on the political spectrum
152. C — Software that decides which stories appear in your feed based on your behavior and preferences
153. C — A strong plan would include: a specific lede highlighting the winning project or most surprising result; interviews with the winner, a judge, and a participant who didn't win (for diverse perspectives); organization following the inverted pyramid with the most newsworthy results first, then context about the fair, quotes from sources, and background details
154. B — The positive version might start the graph at a recent peak to show decline, cherry-pick favorable months, and highlight month-over-month improvement; the negative version might use a longer time range showing a historical low, emphasize the total number of unemployed, and truncate the Y-axis to exaggerate changes
155. C — Undercover journalism involves reporters concealing their identity to gain access to information — it raises debates about deception, privacy, proportionality, and whether the information could have been obtained through conventional reporting methods
156. B — Testimonial uses a famous or authoritative figure's endorsement to transfer

their credibility to a cause; plain folks portrays a leader or product as relatable to ordinary people — both bypass evidence by manipulating social trust

157. An independent position that represents the reader's interests, investigates complaints about the news organization's coverage, and publicly critiques the organization's own journalism to maintain accountability
 158. Text for context and background; video interviews with gardeners showing their passion; photo essay of the garden's transformation over time; audio of ambient garden sounds and bird calls; data visualization comparing neighborhood food access before and after; interactive map showing garden locations and what each plot grows
 159. A news story reports facts and events objectively using verified information and sources, while an opinion piece (editorial, column, or op-ed) expresses the writer's personal viewpoint, analysis, or argument about an issue
 160. Check whether established news organizations are reporting the same story, look at the original source, and check the publication date
- Matching (Investigative Journalism): 1→E, 2→A, 3→C, 4→D, 5→B
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