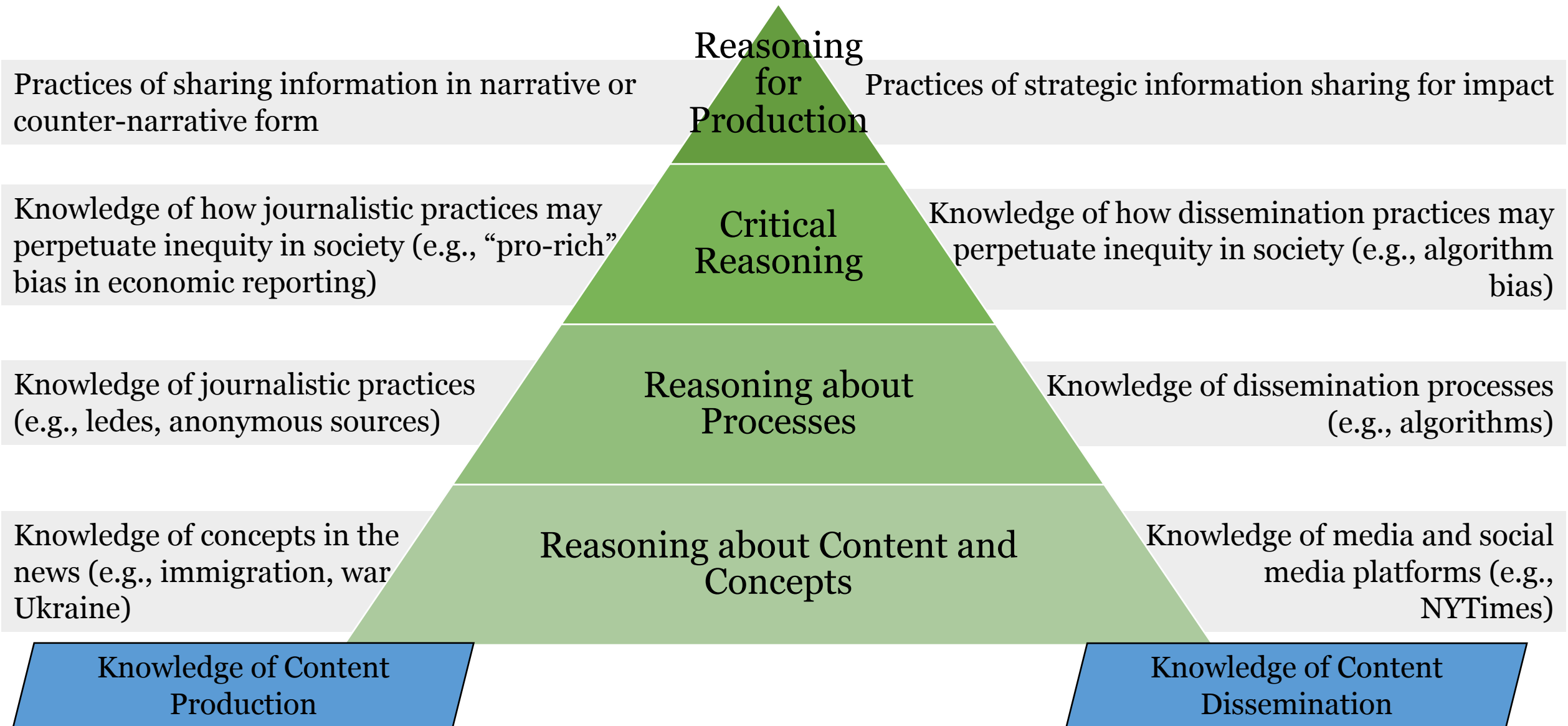


We Are What We Read

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Framework for Critical Media Literacy



Materials

**Ethical Decision Making in
Journalism**

Student Handouts

**Analyzing Anecdotal and
Statistical Information in
the News**

Student Handouts

Directions: Reach excerpts from each newspaper article. Pay specific attention to potential differences in the information highlighted in green and blue.

Analyzing Anecdotal and Statistical Information in the News

Student Handouts

The Disturbing Trend of Homeless Community College Students
Danielle Douglas-Gabriel, Washington Post, 3/15/2017

There are weeks when Xavier McMillon, 23, knows he can rely on a friend to put him up for a night or two many other days Community College find a place to sta

In College and Homeless
Kyle Spence, New York Times, 2/20/2020

On a sunny day last April, Anthony White, a 29-year-old Marine Corps veteran, told a room of California state legislators how he had survived a semester as a cash-strapped

It wasn't always 1 months ago, he w with his best frier job. But a dispute them evicted, and because McMillor meds got him fire

"Right now it's re school, try to get place," said McMi semester off. "I tr know about every me. I don't like pe

Directions: Analyze the information highlighted within each news story.

Newspaper Article Excerpt	How would you describe the information highlighted in your own words?	How does the information make you feel? What does it make you think about?	Why did the journalist choose to include this information in their story?
<p>The Disturbing Trend of Homeless Community College Students There are weeks when Xavier McMillon, 23, knows he can rely on a friend to put him up for a night or two. But there are far too many other days when the Houston Community College student scrambles to find a place to stay or money to eat.</p>			
<p>The Disturbing Trend of Homeless Community College Students In a survey of more than 33,000 students at 70 community colleges across the country, researchers found that 14 percent were homeless, and one in three were going hungry while pursuing a degree.</p>			
<p>In College and Homeless Mr. White parked his Chevy Silverado late at night in warehouse lots, showering at his gym, and he was once kicked out of a Lowe's for brushing his teeth in the bathroom. The experience, he said, was "traumatizing."</p>			
<p>In College and Homeless Seventeen percent of community college students experienced homelessness in the last year, according to a 2019 survey of close to 167,000 college students by The Hope Center.</p>			

Justice in Philadelphia. And half reported

Exit Ticket: Match Each Example to the Type of Information It Represents

Directions: For each example, please decide if it represents anecdotal, statistical, or expert information.

Examples	Information Type
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Some 55% of CUNY students across 19 of its campuses recently were housing insecure: unable to pay rent or utilities, forced to move frequently, moving in with people due to financial problems or living in too-crowded housing, according to a 2019 report2. "California is ahead of the game in that the state has made the first investment of this level in addressing college student homelessness," said Crutchfield, who is part of a research team evaluating so-called rapid rehousing programs on 10 campuses over the next three years.3. "I would nap throughout the day, instead of getting a full eight hours of sleep (at night)," <u>Zaldana</u> said, describing how she had to sleep in shifts in the 300-square-foot Manhattan studio apartment she shared with her mother, father, grandmother and sister – without a door to close.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Anecdotal InformationB. Statistical InformationC. Expert Information

Direction: **Circle** the words in each example that helped you decide whether anecdotal, statistical, or expert information was introduced.

Analyzing Anecdotal and Statistical Information in the News

Student Handouts

Ethical Decision Making in Journalism

Student Handouts

Ethical Dilemmas in Journalism

Directions: Analyze each ethical dilemma introduced.

PREAMBLE

Members of the Society of Professional Journalists
Ethical journalism strives to ensure the free
The Society declares these four principles c

SEEK TRUTH AND REPORT IT

Ethical journalism should be accurate and
be honest and courageous in gathering, re
information.

Journalists should:

- ▶ Take responsibility for the accuracy of their v
releasing it. Use original sources whenever p
- ▶ Remember that neither speed nor format exci
- ▶ Provide context. Take special care not to misr
promoting, previewing or summarizing a stor
- ▶ Gather, update and correct information throug
- ▶ Be cautious when making promises, but keep
- ▶ Identify sources clearly. The public is entitl
sible to judge the reliability and motivations
- ▶ Consider sources' motives before promising a
sources who may face danger, retribution or o
that cannot be obtained elsewhere. Explain w
- ▶ Diligently seek subjects of news coverage to
cism or allegations of wrongdoing.
- ▶ Avoid undercover or other surreptitious meth
unless traditional, open methods will not yiel
- ▶ Be vigilant and courageous about holding the
Give voice to the voiceless.
- ▶ Support the open and civil exchange of views,
- ▶ Recognize a special obligation to serve as we
government. Seek to ensure that the public's
open, and that public records are open to all.
- ▶ Provide access to source material when it is r
- ▶ Boldly tell the story of the diversity and magn
Seek sources whose voices we seldom hear.
- ▶ Avoid stereotyping. Journalists should exami
experiences may shape their reporting.
- ▶ Label advocacy and commentary.
- ▶ Never deliberately distort facts or context, in
Clearly label illustrations and re-enactments.

Scenario 1: Anonymous Sourcing

A source comes to you because the construction company, where they work, is using environmentally harmful materials. However, the company is defrauding their customers and government regulators by claiming that these materials are environmentally friendly. They are also charging their clients extra for these materials.

Your source wants to expose this wrong-doing but is asking to remain anonymous, when you publish the story. They want to be an anonymous source both because they were involved in this illegal construction and upselling customers and because they are afraid that if you use their name they will be fired and will be unable to find another job.

Should you grant your source anonymity when you report this story?

Scenario 2: Information to Include When Reporting

Your neighborhood had a devastating fire and your editor asks you to report on this. This fire is the third to occur in the same neighborhood. People say that the fire was caused by houses in the area being built with cheap, shoddy, and easily flammable, building materials.

When you get to the scene, you learn that the fire started because a child in the building was playing with matches, unsupervised. You know that reporting this information will impact the family's ability to recover from the fire and receive insurance money for what happened.

Do you report this information? How would you "frame" your story? What would you focus on in your reporting?

Scenario 3: Running a Story

You are writing a story about a local politician running for elected office. The politician is also a business owner in the area. You have heard rumors that this politician is mistreating their employees by withholding tips and asking employees to work, even after they clock out.

The election is only a week away and you think these

Scenario 4: Information on Social Media

You are reporting on a story about a local business that is mistreating its employees. They are not allowing employees to take sick leave and their pay is docked if they make a mistake at work, even when this is only an accident. Employees are forced to work over-time or risk being fired.

Ethical Decision Making in Journalism

Student Handouts

Exit Ticket: Which Ethical Principles Are Violated?

Directions: Please match each example of journalistic misconduct to the SPJ's Ethical Principle(s) that it violates.

Examples of Journalistic	SPJ's Ethical Principles Violated
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A journalist is profiling the CEO of a technology company. The CEO flies them in their private jet to their resort for an interview. The journalist spends an all-expenses-paid week with the CEO and does not disclose this when writing the profile.2. A journalist is publishing a story about a politician accused of bribery. However, the politician is difficult to reach, so the journalist publishes the story without giving the politician an opportunity to respond to the accusations.3. A journalist quotes a source in a story; however the source emails the journalist to say that their quote was inaccurate and that they had been misquoted. The journalist does not respond and does not tell their editor, pretending the mistake did not happen.4. A journalist publishes a detailed story about an individual's arrest for running naked through a public fountain. The individual is a private person and the story is embarrassing, but not very important to the public. The journalist thinks the story will receive a lot of attention because it is funny.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Seek Truth and Report ItB. Minimize HarmC. Act IndependentlyD. Be Accountable and Transparent

Breakout Session

Ethical Principle	Key Considerations
1. Seek truth and report it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Verify information before publishing○ Provide context, do not oversimplify stories○ Allow subjects to respond to criticisms or allegations of wrongdoing○ Represent the diversity of human experience
2. Minimize Harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Show compassion to the subjects of news stories.○ Recognize that individuals have a greater right to privacy, if they are not public individuals○ Balance individuals' right to privacy, with the public's right to know
3. Act Independently	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Avoid conflicts of interest○ Distinguish news from advertising; Prominently label sponsored content
4. Be Accountable and Transparent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Explain ethical choices to your audience○ Acknowledge mistakes and correct them

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Reach out!

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