

ENG 102: News Literacy
Assignment Sheet

Daily Assignment

During our class periods, we've discussed how to decode news bias in print and digital media. In this class, you will be asked to read and evaluate the news on a daily basis, so that you will be able practice good news literacy skills.

This assignment is due every day at the beginning of class. Before class, you will find one news story that speaks to you from either the *Washington Post*, *New York Times* or *Wall Street Journal*. In your journal, you will write, thoroughly, in full sentences:

Date:

News Source:

Headline:

Genre of News:

Who, what, where, when, why, how:

Why this story is important:

Bias:

You will be required to present your story at least ONCE in the semester, however, you will be required to collect the information before each class.

Unit 1: Major Assignment #1: Decoding News Bias

Rough Draft Due:

Final Draft Due:

We have, to this point, read a series of news articles on a series of topics that appeared in a series of mediums (The Atlantic Monthly, The New York Times, Washington Post, TedTalks, Time Magazine, book chapters, etc.). We've also discussed in-depth about what **news bias** is, how to detect it and how to compare it with other news sources to develop strong news literacy skills.

This assignment will have you write a paper including both sides of a subject, where you will examine a controversial issue in order to help a reader better understand the two main sides of a debate. The goal is NOT to argue your position, but rather to explain the most compelling points on two sides of the topic and support those points using credible news and academic sources.

Here are the criteria:

Length

Four-to-six pages in length, typed, double spaced in 12-point TNR font. At least six in-text citations, correctly formatted for MLA style. A works cited page should be written on a separate page, correctly formatted, showing at least six reliable sources. Three of the sources you use in your paper must be from a journal or newspaper article. Other sources can include **reliable** websites and books.

Purpose:

First and foremost, the essay has to have a clear purpose. This will include a welldefined, well-written intro paragraph, including a hook and explanation of why the issue is important, background info and thesis. The body of the essay will present the main arguments for each position. You will need to find statistics, expert opinions, quotes, etc. to back up your ideas. The essay will end with the conclusions you made based on your research.