

JOUR 275 (Hopke)
Comparative News Analysis Guidelines

This course is designed to give you an introduction into deciding what topics are timely and newsworthy, as well as how to think like a journalist. In order to develop your news reporting skills through learning what topics are newsworthy, you should get in the habit of reading the news each day from sources such as the *Chicago Tribune* and the *New York Times*.

Assignment Guidelines:

In order to hone your news identification, researching and reporting skills, 5% of your grade comes from four (4) comparative news discussion posts to the course D2L "Discussions" forum. Discussion posts are due in weeks 2, 4, 7 and 9. For each round of posting, you will respond to at least two of your colleagues' posts. We will also discuss topics and your analyses in class.

For each comparative news analysis discussion post, you should post a brief comparative analysis of a news event you saw covered in the past week in the mainstream and/or alternative press. News analyses are due Mondays in weeks 2, 4, 7 and 9 at 11:59 p.m. via the D2L "Discussions" board for that week. Your analyses should be thoughtful but concise (<300 words).

To receive full points (worth 5 each), you should include quotes or screenshots from the coverage and include your own thoughts on why similarities or difference between types of media might occur (see below for grading expectations). To avoid plagiarism issues, source material should be hyperlinked to and listed in a "references" list at the end of your post in APA style. For more on APA style, see: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/>

For another 5 points, you will respond to at least two of your colleagues' posts by class time on Wednesday of the week the post is due.

Deadlines:

Week 2: Comparative News Analysis 1 post due by 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 11.
Responses due by class time Wednesday, September 13.

Week 4: Comparative News Analysis 2 post due by 11:59 p.m. Monday, September 25.
Responses due by class time Wednesday, September 27.

Week 7: Comparative News Analysis 3 post due by 11:59 p.m. Monday, October 16. Responses due by class time Wednesday, October 18.

Week 9: Comparative News Analysis 4 post due by 11:59 p.m. Monday, October 30. Responses due by class time Wednesday, November 1.

JOUR 275 (Hopke)
Comparative News Analysis Guidelines

Grading:

A-level work: Student analyzes at least four (4) different news stories (from different news outlets) about the selected topic, providing thoughtful and original analysis. The news topic is current within the past week. The analysis integrates all sources to make a compelling, original argument. The write-up is thorough, informative and well written. No minor grammatical, AP style or other writing errors. Source material is hyperlinked to and listed in a “references” list.

For responses, student provides original and thoughtful commentary on at least two colleagues’ analyses, posted in a timely fashion, by the deadline.

B-level work: Student analyzes at least three (3) different news stories (from different news outlets) about the selected topic, providing thoughtful and original analysis. The news topic is current within the past week. Typically, analysis is good but needs improvement and/or sources are not integrated to make a holistic analytic argument. Source material is hyperlinked to and listed in a “references” list.

For responses, student provides thoughtful, though not necessarily original, commentary on at least two colleagues’ analyses, posted in a timely fashion.

C-level work: Effort and promise, but much execution must be improved on analysis and/or integration of source material. Post includes less than three (3) different news stories and/or sources are not from different news outlets or the topic is dated (i.e. not from within the past week). Commonly, repeated grammatical errors, basic style errors, lack of attention to detail and/or shoddy analysis is present. Discussion post meets only basic minimum satisfactory requirements and expectations. Source material is hyperlinked to but “references” list is not included.

For responses, student provides reasonable commentary on at least two colleagues’ analyses, posted in a timely fashion.

Unsatisfactory-level work (D or F): Very little effort was made. Instructions were not followed. Analysis incomplete or only part of assignment completed. The student did not make an attempt, plagiarized and/or source material is not hyperlinked to or listed in a “references” list. Assignment is posted late.

For responses, student provides poor and/or plagiarized commentary on colleagues’ discussion posts and/or fails to comment on colleagues’ posts by the deadline.