

ENG 208 – Introduction to Digital Journalism
Dragan

Blog Assignment #1 – Responding to an Example of Digital Journalism

DUE DATE: THU., OCT. 1st, 2020 (11:59 pm)

Description

Our first 'official' blog assignment is to respond to a piece or example of a single article or packaged news story that's been posted online under **eng208.publishproject.com** under the **Digital Journalism Links** page.

For your convenience, the direct URL is:

djlinks.publishproject.com

All the examples under the different tabs here will work for this assignment (except maybe the *Journalism Resources*, which are more general).

You are especially encouraged to explore links under the *Featured*, *Journalism Today*, *Blogs @ NYT*, *Business*, *Tech* and *Historical* pages. Of course, we have started exploring some of these links in class. Try to pick a different story than the ones you explored in other activities for class so far (our forum post and the online activities).

Write a 400 to 500-word post (~2 pages) on your WordPress blog on the prompt below:

- 1) First, spend about 30 minutes exploring the links. Find ONE article that interests you as an example of responsible digital journalism that uses sources to write about more carefully.
- 2) Summarize the article for us in about 100 words. Give us the title, author (if available), sponsoring media organization and correct web link.
- 3) Give us 2 short direct quotes from the article and quote and indent these sentences to show that they are quotes. (This is a very common convention in blogging and online journalism, and this is our chance to learn how to do this correctly.) Explain what these quotes mean.

4) Now answer a few of following questions in about ~250 additional words. Try to be thoughtful and specific in your answers using evidence drawn from your chosen online article.

--What are the sources used for this article? Are there interviews, firsthand reporting, secondary sources, other data and / or a combination of sources? How can you tell the creators of this article used responsible journalistic techniques?

--Does this article use photographs, video and / or interactivity (or something else) to give the reader a deeper understanding of the focus of the article?

--What is appealing, effective and / or even 'innovative' about this piece of digital journalism for you? Again, try to be specific with evidence. (Don't just say you liked it – tell us why.) Finally, what does this article gain by being published in a digital format (instead of just print)?

***Some Hints:

- Aim to write clearly, but quickly. Revise what you write a bit before you post. Your post should conform to Standard English (and AP Style if you are familiar with that from other Journalism classes). You'll want to use complete sentences and paragraphs / chunks that are clear and grammatically correct.
- Remember, you can edit and improve your post by editing it in WordPress. Preview before you post. *Get comfortable with the edit / preview / post workflow in WP.*
- **Important!!**

Label this post clearly as “Blog Assignment #1” in a title and tags (try to include the assignment number in the title) so the rest of the class – including your instructor – can find it easily.

Remember to tag all your critical thinking blog posts using “Blog Asg 1”, “ENG 208” and a few words that describe your post. (Tagging your posts will help readers find your content ‘in the wild.’ Of course, we are using a class blog roll, so we will be able to find your posts, as long as you label them clearly.)

Commenting

After this assignment is due, you should read and comment on the work of other students. Try to get in the habit of commenting on at least 2 or 3 posts per blog assignment. *We will go over commenting in WordPress soon.*