

Name: _____

Analyzing the News

Everyday we are confronted with an overwhelming number of ways to follow the news. From the multiple news sources—Fox, USA Today, Politico, etc.—to the way the news is presented—news stories, editorials, blogs, TV segments—it can be difficult to decide where to begin and what to trust. With so many options, it is important to think critically about the news so that we can gain a better understanding of what is going on in the world and form our own opinions.

In the coming months, coverage of the presidential election will test our ability to identify the facts, political biases, and important policy debates in the news. The following toolbox outlines questions to consider as you read articles and watch news broadcasts. By considering the source, the content, and the overall message, you will be prepared to compare news sources and form your own opinion of the candidates and policy issues.

News Analysis Toolbox

Source Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date • What news organization (or individual) produced this? • What is the type of news source?
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the main headline? • What facts (statistics, important events, etc.) are included? • Is anyone quoted? If so, who? What did they say? • What information or ideas might have been left out?
Message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the intended audience? • Does the author seem to have an opinion? If so, what is it? • What is the tone of the source? • What words or phrases create the tone? • Is any one person or group discussed positively? Negatively?

Instructions: Your teacher will assign your group a news source. Use “News Analysis: Graphic Organizer” to answer the questions related to the source, content, and message of the news source. Be sure to highlight and/or record statements that provide key facts or represent the tone of the news source.

News Analysis: Example

Name: _____

Source Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date • What news organization (or individual) produced this? • What is the type of news source? 	<p>June 4, 2012</p> <p><i>The New York Times</i></p> <p>online editorial</p> <p>“The Class of 2012”</p>
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the main headline? • What facts are included? • Is anyone quoted? If so, who? What did they say? • What information might have been left out? 	<p>-unemployment statistics for recent college grads before and after the 2007 recession</p> <p>-income for recent college grads</p> <p>-the bad economy has affected the quantity and quality of jobs available for college grads</p> <p>-early joblessness can “damage career prospects” of students later on</p> <p>no one is quoted</p> <p>-college student perspective left out</p> <p>-other ways of thinking about job creation</p> <p>older adults (not recent college graduates)</p>
Message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the intended audience? • Does the author seem to have an opinion? If so, what is it? • What is the tone of the source? • What words or phrases create the tone? • Is any one person or group discussed positively? Negatively? 	<p>yes, the author thinks the government needs to spend more to invest in states and growth--> this will create jobs</p> <p>disappointed and persuasive: the author is disappointed in how a college degree is not getting people jobs and wants to persuade readers into thinking that the government needs to do more</p> <p>-“The damage will be deep and lasting...”</p> <p>-“The biggest misperception...”</p> <p>-“Until the government does more...”</p> <p>yes, negatively- the author thinks the Republicans have blocked opportunities for growth</p>

News Analysis: Graphic Organizer

Name: _____

<p>Source Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date • What news organization (or individual) produced this? • What is the type of news source? 	
<p>Content</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the main headline? • What facts are included? • Is anyone quoted? If so, who? What did they say? • What information might have been left out? 	
<p>Message</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the intended audience? • Does the author seem to have an opinion? If so, what is it? • What is the tone of the source? • What words or phrases create the tone? • Is any one person or group discussed positively? Negatively? 	

Tracking the Issues: Graphic Organizer

Name: _____

Policy Issue of the Week: Date:		News Source:
Candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which candidate(s) does the news source focus on? 	
Source Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date • What news organization (or individual) produced this? • What is the type of news source? 	
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the main headline? • What facts are included? • Is anyone quoted? If so, who? What did they say? • What information might have been left out? 	
Message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the intended audience? • Does the author seem to have an opinion on the candidate(s) or the issue? • What is the tone of the source? • What words or phrases create the tone? • Is any one person or group discussed positively? Negatively? 	
Your opinion on the candidate(s) and Policy Issue of the Week		
Notes from Group Discussion		