Lesson Plan:

News & Journalism

# Learning Objectives:

* Understand the different types of newspaper articles
* Find Newspapers available from MSU Library

# INTRO (5 mins)

* Introduce yourself
* Show the [MSU Library Research Guide](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/libraryresearch), where you can find this information and get help
* Questions:
  + How many of you read the New York Times; Washington Post; Wall Street Journal?
  + How many of you have a New York Times account through MSU?
    - Did you know you (and your students) can get one for free?
    - How to create NYT account
  + How many of you feel comfortable searching for newspaper articles through MSU Library?

# INSTRUCTION & GROUP DISCUSSION (20 - 30 mins)

* Questions:
  + How many different newspapers can you think of?
  + What are the differences between local/regional and national newspapers and news magazines?
    - Local/Regional – Bozeman Chronicle, Livingston Enterprise
    - National – New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, The Guardian (UK)
    - News magazines – articles can be more in-depth, but not as timely.
  + What are some different types of news articles?
    - Opinion Pieces (Editorials, Letters to the Editor)
    - Investigative Journalism
    - Article (feature article, news article)
  + Are all newspaper sources equal?
* Review and explain the different types of news articles, and how they differ
  + Ask students to explain, e.g. what is an editorial? Who can give an example?
  + Introduce types of newspaper articles and briefly discuss differences between different types. How to tell opinion piece from news article, etc.
  + With many types of sources, how can we know which one we should use?
* Discuss other news Sources
  + News Magazines – The Atlantic, The New Yorker, Newsweek, Time, US News & World Report
  + News Websites, TV News
  + Show media bias chart <https://adfontesmedia.com/>
    - There is a static chart and an interactive version
    - Free account gives more options
* Questions?

# **ACTIVITY: PAIR & SHARE: Types of News Sources (20 mins)**

* Activity Instructions included at the end

# Finding News Sources using MSU Library Website (10-15 mins)

* Use A-Z Database List to find format “News”
  + Demonstrate examples of news databases
  + Access World News
  + Chronicling America
* Use Journals by Title to find specific new sources
* **Demo steps for signing up for NYT Account**
  + Show sign up tutorial - <https://ior.ad/86D9>
  + Have students follow along and then create their own accounts
* Questions?

# **ACTIVITY: Sign up for a New York Times Account (10 mins)**

* Activity Instructions included at the end

# ADDITIONAL IN-CLASS or HOMEWORK RESOURCES:

* LibGuides
* Suggested MSU Library online modules :
  + News & Journalism research
    - [Video Tutorial: Understanding Misinformation](https://frame.credocourseware.com/courses/course-v1:Montana-State-University-Bozeman+IL-MOD+2018/courseware/461d89ced629497f93e2d657c081f48f/fee267c2ea9b41f4b136a87180f30046/?activate_block_id=block-v1%3AMontana-State-University-Bozeman%2BIL-MOD%2B2018%2Btype%40vertical%2Bblock%40e5abfdc5f5e24aaa862e867146aa212b) and/or
    - [Video: Bias and Assumption](https://frame.credocourseware.com/courses/course-v1:Montana-State-University-Bozeman+IL-MOD+2018/courseware/5a1ccef728734dd999bc33599ac43305/6bea04b9e95a484e9eed7514050d5b0a/?activate_block_id=block-v1%3AMontana-State-University-Bozeman%2BIL-MOD%2B2018%2Btype%40sequential%2Bblock%406bea04b9e95a484e9eed7514050d5b0a) and/or
    - [Video: Purpose and Value of Evidence](https://frame.credocourseware.com/courses/course-v1:Montana-State-University-Bozeman+IL-MOD+2018/courseware/5a1ccef728734dd999bc33599ac43305/32aada885df740d580eb7dcb4c971e7b/?activate_block_id=block-v1%3AMontana-State-University-Bozeman%2BIL-MOD%2B2018%2Btype%40sequential%2Bblock%4032aada885df740d580eb7dcb4c971e7b)
    - [Tutorial: News Reporting vs. Opinion Pieces in Journalism](https://frame.credocourseware.com/courses/course-v1:Montana-State-University-Bozeman+IL-MOD+2018/courseware/461d89ced629497f93e2d657c081f48f/214189d7b9634c729ada2025b2161850/?activate_block_id=block-v1%3AMontana-State-University-Bozeman%2BIL-MOD%2B2018%2Btype%40vertical%2Bblock%403c341e15ec4b4c0d8d0c1180d077d356)

Activity: Types of News Sources

Hands-on/active learning: In this activity students will look at different types of news articles and answer questions related to them. Activity can be done individually or as a group/pair.

# Intro

* Review [Types of News Sources](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/libraryresearch/news)
* Print a mix of opinion, news articles, feature articles, and investigative articles

# Instructions

1. Students in groups of 2-3 (or can be done individually)
2. Each group gets a sample newspaper article (include a mix of opinion, news articles, and investigative articles)
3. Analyze the article and answer questions below
4. Group discussion:
   1. Share what type of article each group had, and how they decided what type of article it was.
   2. Discuss any challenges that arose in the process.
   3. Part 3 of worksheet can either be done by students on their own or as a class discussion.

# Part 1: General Questions:

1. What type of news article is this: News article, Investigative article, or Opinion article)?
   * What helped you identify the type of article? (style, purpose, format, etc)
2. How much information did you get from the title, photo captions or callouts?
3. What are the main points in the article?
4. Does the author use evidence in the article to support what is written? If so what types of evidence? Does the evidence seem credible

# Part 2: Answer the questions related to your article type.

## News Article Questions:

1. Who is the article talking about?
2. What is the issue being reported?
3. Where is this taking place?
4. When did the news take place?

## Investigative Article Questions:

1. Who or What is the article investigating?
2. Who is doing the investigating?
3. How has the journalist found the facts in the article?
4. When did the investigation take place? How long did it take to investigate the issue?
5. Is the investigation summed up in one article, or is it a series of articles?
6. Did the investigation lead to any social change/political reform?

## Opinion Article Questions:

1. Who is the author of the article? Is the author qualified in some way to talk about the topic?
2. What is the key point being made in this article?
3. Does this article seem like it makes valid arguments?
4. What arguments would you use if you were on the opposite side of the issue?

# Part 3: What’s Next?

1. What questions does this article raise?
2. Where can I go to get answers or more information?
3. Where can I go to get the other side of the argument

Do you notice a theme in the questions? **Who, what, when, where, and why** are the main questions to ask yourself when reading a news article.

(Adapted from https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/teaching-strategies/news-article-analysis)

Activity: Sign up for a New York Times Account

Hands-on/active learning: learn how to sign up for a New York Times online account.

# Intro

* Review finding [Library Databases by Format > News](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/az.php?t=11506)

# Instructions:

1. The NYT account gives access to all NYT online content for 1 year. Accounts can be renewed every year as long as account holder is still affiliated with MSU.
2. Watch tutorial: <https://ior.ad/86D9>
3. Go to <https://guides.lib.montana.edu/ny-times> and create an online account.