Arthur Murillo | TD1

Comparative Newspaper Analysis

Choose a news story which has been reported in both a tabloid and a broadsheet newspaper. Your articles should have a link to science, technology and /or current affairs.

Broadsheet (The Guardian): https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jan/21/donald-trump-impeachment-trial-senate

Tabloid (Daily Mail): https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7909411/Senate-begins-Donald-Trumps-historic-impeachment-trial-TODAY.html

Write a brief summary (4-6 sentences) of the incident/topic both articles are reporting on.

The articles I chose tells us about the Trump Impeachment currently ongoing. Indeed, President Trump is said to have used (and abused) his presidential powers to launch an investigation on one of his political rivals. Indeed, in July 2019, he urged his Ukrainian counterpart to investigate one of the frontrunners to take him on in the 2020 presidential election. The opposition Democrats say this matter, because it is illegal to ask foreign entities for help in winning a US election. After President Trump was impeached in December, a trial is now starting that could (but probably won't) lead to the president being removed.

Write a short analysis of the difference in the two headlines. How are they different? What choices have been made in selecting the headlines?

Broadsheet headline:
Trump impeachment: Senate prepares for opening of historic trial

Tabloid headline:
Donald Trump goes on trial TODAY: Senators to open bitter partisan warfare on the rules as only the third president ever is tried - with Democrats slamming a 'cover-up' and poll showing 51% want him removed from office

Analysis:
The main differences between the two headlines is the amount of information given to the reader. The broadsheet's headline is very concise and displays very few information as for the whole content of the article. On the other hand, the tabloid's headline displays a lot of info over the content of the article. Obviously, the point of giving a lot of information is to encourage the reader to click. The choice of words is also important as the tabloid uses an upper-case word to attract the attention, and numbers in favour of a popular opinion. All of this is probably meant to attract Democrats oriented people because they might be interested in the numbers because they are in their favour, as well as Republican-oriented people, because they might want to know more.

Comment on the differences between the two articles under the following headings. Support your answer with quotations.

1. CONTENT & DETAIL: What extra details does one article offer over the other? What details have been missed out?

The tabloid a large (perhaps too large) amount of numbers (from polls, mostly) and pictures that they use to talk about the subject:

"*The public, too, is weighing in, on Monday in the form of a new CNN poll that found a 51 per cent majority now backs Trump's removal from office*".

Master of the Senate? Mitch McConnell's plan was revealed Monday evening, with just hours to go until senators get to decide on the rules for the trial of Donald Trump

On the other hand, the broadsheet uses lots of quotes from various actor taking a part in the trial or having a link with the issue. It also provides links to legal documents related to the trial that may be useful in understanding the process of the trial, and what is coming out of it:

"*In a 110-page legal brief filed with the Senate on Monday, the lawyers called the impeachment "an affront to the constitution and to our democratic institutions" and "a brazenly political act by House Democrats that must be rejected".*

2. VOCABULARY / COMPLEXITY OF LANGUAGE- How complex is the language of each article? What words in particular are usual or interesting? Is there any technical jargon?

Because the articles are about laws, the language is complex, and there is technical jargon in the both of them, but the broadsheet manages to keep the flow of information low so that the reader can concentrate on the ones presented to him and understand them. As an example of the kind of jargon you can read in the broadsheet:

"*Republicans have vowed to prevent witnesses from appearing in order to testify, but just a few temporary <u>defections</u> from that party line would give Democrats the narrow majority required to force witnesses through or obtain new documents.*"

3. TONE- What is the tone of each article? If they are different, consider why.

While the tabloid used upper case in the headline, the content of the articles is very formal and serious, though the tabloid uses tweets screenshots, which is a bit non-serious to me. I think this is because this is political business, so the form and the facts must be right. As the guardian says:

"*For only the <u>third time in history</u>, prosecutors sent by the House of Representatives will rise on the Senate floor to charge the president with "high crimes and misdemeanors" and declare that he must be turned out of the White House.*"

4. ATTITUDE / STANCE / BIAS OF THE WRITER- Does the writer of either article have an agenda or preference? How can you tell? Can you identify the newspaper's bias in the article (Guardian = left-wing; Daily Mail = right-wing)? neutral?

Though each journal has their own political orientation for sure, none of them really takes a position in the debate around whether President Trump is guilty or not, which surprised me, and I couldn't determine the newspaper's bias (but I have never been good at that anyway).

5. ACCOMPANYING PHOTO(S), ILLUSTRATIONS, GRAPHICS, GRAPHS – What graphics are included with each article? How does the choice of accompanying images reflect the articles' differences? Does the choice of photo/illustration influence the way the story is being presented?

There are very few graphics included in the broadsheet. The only one included is a picture of President Trump in Washington DC.

▲ Donald Trump in Washington DC, on 18 December 2019, the day of the House impeachment vote. Photograph: Mark Wilson/Getty Images

On the other hand, the tabloid uses various pictures of personalities, tweets screenshots, videos and a circular chart.

Donald Trump: Impeachment trial is a witch hunt and a hoax

Battle lines: Adam Schiff and Jerry Nadler, the Democratic chairmen of the House Intelligence and Judiciary Committees will prosecute Donald Trump

Obviously, the choice of putting images reflects the differences between the articles, as putting images and videos is a good way to support your arguments, provided you take the right ones, or the right pieces of the video. These could help guessing the journal's bias. I also think that it is great to have faces to put on the numerous names that can be heard about along the article.

Explain which article you prefer and why. You may make your decision based on any criteria you choose (e.g. how entertaining/clear/informative/stylish the article was) as long as you make it clear what criteria you have judged the articles on. Support any statement you make with quotations.

I would say that I prefer the broadsheet's article. Indeed, though I watch and read the news often, I usually don't do it for very long. That's why I like to read brief articles on the subject I'm not that much interested in, to get the essential of the context. In this particular case, I am interested in the subject but the complexity of it makes me like the shortness of the broadsheet's article compared to the length of the tabloid's.