

Daniel Barber
Professor Nesi
ENG 285 - Journalism
21 February 2018

Content Audit

WPRI 12 is a CBS affiliated, local news station based out of Providence Rhode Island. During their 6:00 p.m. broadcast on February 19th, 2018, the WPRI news team reported on many interesting stories. They started the show by briefly identifying three big stories they had for tonight, one being a house fire, one being the local weather and the last being an investigation into Rhode Island College. The news team proceeded to go into their biggest story they had for their audience about a Rhode Island state senator who pleaded not guilty to extortion. The news cast showed video coverage from the courtroom while talking about what the case was about. They spent a couple minutes covering this story showing snippets from press conferences and interviews.

The team then moved to the story about the house fire out of New Bedford MA. They had live coverage from the scene of the fire and showed their audience the fire blazing. The reported went on to give details about how everyone was able to make it out of the house and how three people had to be taken to the hospital.

The next story the news station moved onto was the local weather for the Providence Rhode Island area. They mentioned how the snow has gone away and is being replaced by warm weather and rain.

Following the weather, the news team moved on to one of their biggest pieces, which ended up being a “Target 12 Investigation” report. Their own in-house investigation team was

looking into a Rhode Island College executive getting free rides to and from the airport even though his salary with the school is \$160,000 a year. The report has video evidence showing the executive getting out of a marked “Rhode Island College Police” car at the airport. The report goes on to say how the investigation team started questioning the college about the free rides and how that has stopped the college police department from giving the executive free rides.

An overall analysis of this newscast shows that their intended audience was for Providence Rhode Island residents and surrounding communities. All of their top stories stayed relatively close to Providence, even the weather was for Providence. If you were someone from Baltimore, Maryland there would be no real reason for you to watch this newscast. Another thing to note about this newscast was the number of stories they did themselves. Every story they covered was covered by a WPRI reporter, even the Rhode Island College investigation was done by their investigation team.

CBS News is an American news station from the company CBS. Watching their 6:30 show on February 19th, 2018 shows that it is a news station that covers important news stories that affects all of America. They opened up their news cast by reporting out of Florida on a story about how students are demanding tougher gun laws. Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School are angry about our countries gun control laws, especially after the school shooting that happened this past Wednesday. The news report continues to say how students are planning on a national march to demand tougher gun laws and started a “#NeverAgain” movement on social media. During the report, they show video snippets of interviews with current students who are fighting for this cause and showing what they had to say.

The next story CBS News covered was how President Trump was linking the Florida school shooting to the current Russian probe. They went on to show a handful of tweets that President Trump sent over the weekend talking about the shooting and how the FBI missed all the signals that were sent their way about the shooter due to them being too involved with the Russian probe. It is important to note that during this news cast, the news station did not seem to take a side while reporting. They seemed to stay very neutral on both the Russian probe and the current gun control controversy.

For their third story, the news team then moved back to covering the Florida shooting and how one history teacher, Ernie Rospierski, saved his students. Ernie, did an interview for the news station and discussed the events of the shooting and what he witnessed and the heroic actions he performed to save his students.

Looking at an overall analysis of this news cast it is safe to say that this newscast is intended for anyone in the United States of America. CBS News covers the main news stories happening in America, that any citizen would want to hear about. The stories seemed to stay mostly political with talks about gun control and President Trump. Although most of the stories were very similar, they always had someone new reporting each story.

Vox is a news based website for American news and stories founded in 2014 and owned by Vox Media. If you were to access Vox.com around 10:00 P.M. (eastern standard time) on February 19th, 2018, you would find President Trump's picture front and center on their top stories section. Right away you can tell that the picture of the president with the title "Trump spent the weekend tweeting about Russia. He lied, a lot" is their main top story. The picture and the title take up the most real estate on the page compared to every other story. To both the left

and the right of the Trump story you see a list of three other top stories ranging from psychedelic drugs to mocking Fox News. Under the top news section, there is a section for latest news. In this section there are links to article that have been most recently submitted and posted to the website.

Looking into the Trump Tweeting article one will see that the whole article is about how President Trump supposedly lied in this past weekend's "twitter rampage." The article broke down 3 tweets the President posted this weeknd and dissected each one. It is important to note that this article was written by a Vox journalist.

Another article that was listed under their top stories was titled "The brutal mirror: what the psychedelic drug ayahuasca showed me about my life." This was an article about this guy who went on a psychedelic retreat in Costa Rica with 78 other people. He describes the experiences he felt while the psychedelics were affecting him and the scenes around him at the retreat each night he was there. This article is what makes Vox stand out from all the other news articles being compared in this paper. The article is in their top stories section with the rest of the news articles but this one is just a pure story. It had nothing to do with what was is currently going on in the United States of America.

Overall, Vox seems to be a intended for a more liberal audience due to their strong comments and views towards President Trump and Fox News. Another interesting thing to note, all the stories in their "Top Stories" section were written by Vox news journalists, none from AP.

The Sun Chronicle is a daily newspaper company based out of Attleborough, MA that covers the surrounding towns. Looking at the front page of their paper from Monday, February

19th, 2018 you will see mostly local news with their main stories front and center. Stretching across the top in bold lettering is their main story about a new high school for Attleboro MA and how the mayor asks the council to approve a \$260 million bond for the new school.

Across the middle of the front page is a large colored image of a small girl making a snowman with the title “Making a new friend” and a small caption under the picture. The strange thing about this picture is the fact that there is no story to go with the picture, not even an index for another page to find the story. Next to this picture is another article about local zoning issues across a major road. Under the picture you will find an article written by someone from the Associated Press. This article is about pot cafes in Boston, which although is considered close to Attleborough, I would not consider it local news.

Flipping through the rest of the paper, I counted 7 different articles from the Associated Press. Compared to a different news source like Vox.com, this is a large amount of stories to pull from the Associated Press. One could guess this is because of how small of a paper company The Sun Chronicle is that they pull from the Associated Press to help fill the paper every day.

The Boston Globe is a daily American newspaper based out of Boston, MA. At a first glance of their paper on Monday February 19th, 2018, the layout of the paper seems to be very similar to the Sun Chronicles layout with a main story stretched across the top, a large picture below it containing a different story and another main story to the right of the picture. Something interesting to note about the front page is the fact there is an article from the Washington Post about Florida students taking a stand against gun control.

The first main story on the front page of The Boston Globe is about new bridge plans across the Mystic River and questioning who is going to pay for it. You get the title up top in bold, a small colored picture to the right of the article and the beginning of the article right on the front page and continuing on page A5.

The big colored picture that can be found in the center of the front page is of a school superintendent talking with small children. There is a quote above the picture saying how this man needs to find a way to connect with the families in Boston. Unlike the Sun Chronicle's front page image, this one has an article right underneath it that goes with the picture. The article goes on to say how superintendent of Boston schools, Tommy Chang is trying to rebuild his relationship with the families of Boston Public Schools after a handful of controversies.

The New York Times is an award winning American daily newspaper based out of New York City. Looking at the front page of their paper from Monday, February 19th, 2018 you will see the setup to be different from the previous two papers we looked at, The Sun Chronicle and The Boston Globe. The New York Times does not have a main story stretched across the top of the paper, instead there is a large picture centered. Under the front picture there is a brief description about a story that is located on a different page of the paper. On each side of the picture there are other top stories including one about Russia meddling in the 2016 election and one story about Iran building up an army in Syria.

Overall each of the six different media outlets we looked at had their similarities and their differences. For an example, Vox.com was the only media outlet we looked at that seemed to take a political side in their reporting by appearing liberal in their reporting of President Trump and gun control policies. Some of the media outlets we looked at seemed to only focus on local

news such as The Sun Chronicle and WPRI 12 (6:00 p.m. newscast). While others mainly focused on country wide news such as CBS News (6:30 p.m. newscast), The New York Times and Vox.com. Then you had The Boston Globe, which focused on news for the state of Massachusetts but also included some country wide news about President Trump and the Russian probe. We saw how some of these outlets took pieces from the Associated Press while others came up with all the stories on their own.