II. News/Democracy/War

A. Democracy and War

1. Government is acting “in our name”

2. Citizens are responsible

3. Citizens need to be informed

B. News

1. must perform First Amendment function

2. inform, truth,

3. not infotainment or propaganda

C. Corporate News: Pre-war coverage: “Charge”!

1. Titles: “Showdown with Saddam,” “The War Room,”

“The War on Terror”

2. NY Times: unnamed sources

3. Repeats administrations claims

a. Threat: WMD

i. IAEC Report

ii. Niger Documents

iii. British Intelligence Report

iv. National Intelligence Estimate

b. rhetoric:

i. Rice: “smoking gun . . . mushroom cloud”

ii. Cheney: “he definitely has WMD”

c. Iraq and Al Qaeda/9-11

d. Democracy to Middle East.

e. UN Resolution 687 and 1442

f. Colin Powell at the UN

g. Rumsfeld: “ quick victory”

h. Administration: “Greeted as liberators”

i. “No cost $, or lives”

4. Pre-war US: “experts”:

a. 75% current or former government

or military officials

b. only one expressed skepticism

5. The “evil” French

a. Freedom fries

b. French wine

D. News: needed to know before the war

1. International Law

a. justification for war

b. Nuremberg Tribunal

2. U.S. Constitution

3. UN Resolutions

4. Cost: lives

a. polls

b. civilian casualties

c. US soldiers

d. post-war care

5. Cost $

6. Niger documents, IAEA, British Intelligence, NIE

7. NY Times: sources

8. Other reasons and goals

i. National Security Strategy

ii. Cheney Energy Policy

iii. Historical context US-Middle East

9. Weapons inspectors

10. Powell: Feb 2001 (no nuclear capacity and no threat to neighbors with his weakened military)

11. Easy!

i. National Defense: “Post-Saddam”

ii. Army War College: “Winning the War, but Losing the Peace

E. Covering the War: “That’s Militainment”

1. New Season, New Show: “Operation Iraqi Freedom”

2. Look: set, music, video

3. Team and the experts

4. Embedded reporters

5. The briefings: Centcom: Hollywood set

F. War stories

1. “shock and awe”

2. “racing to Baghdad”

3. smart bombs, include smart cluster munitions

4. “they” violated the Geneva Conventions

5. Saving Private Lynch

6. Down with Saddam

7. Personal stories: at war/at home

G. Not for commercial media “War Stories”

1. Looting

2. Civilian casualties

3. “Dumb bombs” 15,000 10%

4. Cluster bombs: 2 + million

5. Depleted uranium

6. Napalm and white phosphorous

7. Saving Private Lynch: Wag the dog I

8. Down with Sadam: Wag the dog II

i. Internal US Army Study

ii. one of many psychological ops

9. CPA Order 39

10. Care of soldiers

11. Permanent bases/embassy

12. Torture

13. Failed reconstruction

14. Fallujah

15. Privatization: Blackwater

16. Forever

17. Latest NIE: Iran

18. Pentagon War Games

H. New Show, New Title: “The Surge”

1. Goal
   1. improve security

b. political process can continue

1. strategy

a. +30,000 U.S. troops

b. alliance w/ Sunni insurgents (aka “terrorists”)

1. results
   1. violence down
   2. political process still stalled

c. new 80,000 armed Sunni militia “The Awakening”

1. hates the Shia government

ii. hates al Qa’ida

1. former “terrorists”

iv. 3-4 million refugees not coming home

(ethnic cleansing of neighborhoods)

v. infrastructure: sewage, electricity.