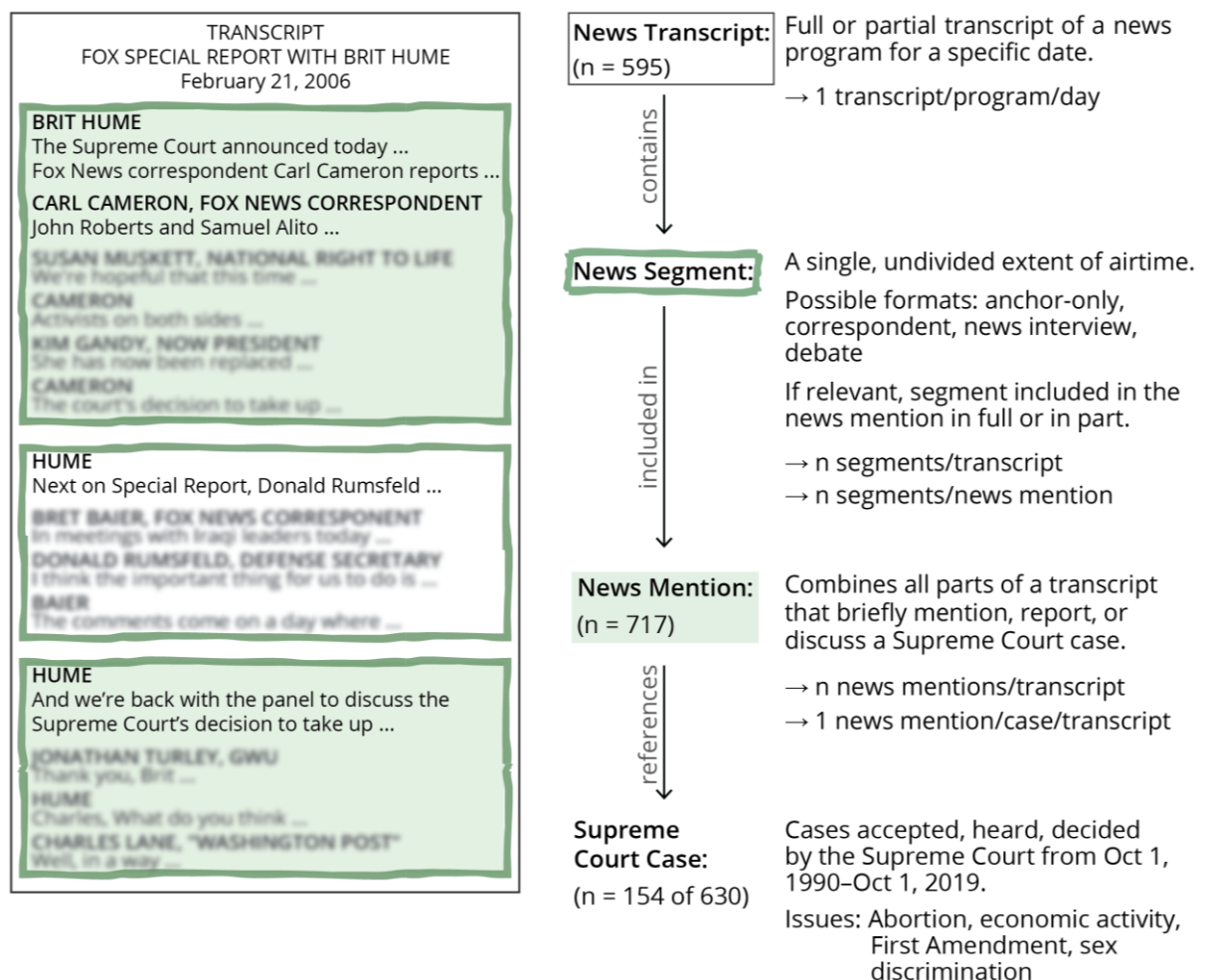


Protocols, Instrument, Reliability Analyses for Content Analysis

My sample consists of transcripts of evening newscasts that refer to Supreme Court cases related to abortion, economic activity, the First Amendment, and sex discrimination, aired on ABC's *World News Tonight* from 1990-2018, and Fox News' *Special Report* and MSNBC's *Hardball* from 2000-2018. The final dataset is based on 595 news transcripts that included 717 news mentions of 154 unique Supreme Court cases (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1

Definition and Sample Sizes of Transcripts, Segments, News Mentions, and Supreme Court Cases



I used a detailed coding instrument (see the “Codebook for Content Analysis,” p. 3 of this Appendix) to assess the structural nature of Supreme Court television news coverage, first coding for the format of news segments included in the news mentions of Supreme Court cases, then for the context of the news mention. This strategy allowed me to uncover the context of references to Supreme Court cases in the news coverage, enabling me to provide a nuanced

view of how and when Supreme Court cases appeared in the news, and who talked about them. Table 1 below presents an overview of the segment formats and context.

Table 1

Category Overview

	Segment Format	Mention Context
Previous Research	Katsh (1983), Davis (1994), Slotnick and Segal (1998), Clayman and Heritage (2002), Zilis (2015)	-
Relevant Variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News Anchor Only • Correspondent • Panel/Debate/Editorial Interview • News Interview <p>→ Each variable is coded for presence (1) or absence (0)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mention Context <p>→ Variable coded as same (1), related (2), or different (3)</p>

All coding was completed by me. A 10% random draw of all Supreme Court case references (n = 79) was coded independently by two reliability coders (5% each) and me to calculate coding reliability. The coding process and reliability check took three weeks to complete.

Codebook for Content Analysis

Directions:

1. Fill out each item below for each Supreme Court news mention in the corresponding excel spreadsheet:
 - a. Each row is a news mention (or observation): an excerpt from a news transcript referring to one particular Supreme Court case;
 - b. Each column is a variable corresponding to one of the codes in the coding scheme presented below;
 - c. Draw data from the news mention and the original transcript, and enter data into corresponding columns based on coding scheme (i.e., news segment format variables as 1 or 0; mention context as 1, 2, or 3).
 - d. If you need additional information about the Supreme Court case in the news mention, follow the link in the “Supreme Court Case” column.
2. Please use the “notes” column to document any idiosyncratic findings that may be important (anything that is unique or stands out to you).

Universe:

All news transcripts aired on ABC’s *World News Tonight* from 1990-2018, and Fox News’ *Special Report* and MSNBC’s *Hardball* from 2000-2018, which referred to Supreme Court cases related to abortion, economic activity, the First Amendment, and sex discrimination that were decided between the Court’s 1990-2018 terms.

Unit of Analysis:

News mention of a Supreme Court case.

Method of Data Collection:

News transcripts from Nexis Uni and Factiva.

Mention Context

Brief Definition: News mention context refers to the topic of the news segments included in the news mention.

Variable: Mention Context

Possible Values: Same (1), Related (2), Different (3)

The three values are mutually exclusive; only one can be selected.

If the Supreme Court case appears in multiple segments with different topics, the mention context is coded based on the following priority order: “Same” supersedes “Related,” and both supersede “Different” (see Figure 2).

That is, if the news mention includes ≥ 1 segment, which is about the same case as that of the news mention, the context is coded as “1” (same) even if other parts of the news mention include segments with a “related” or “different” context.

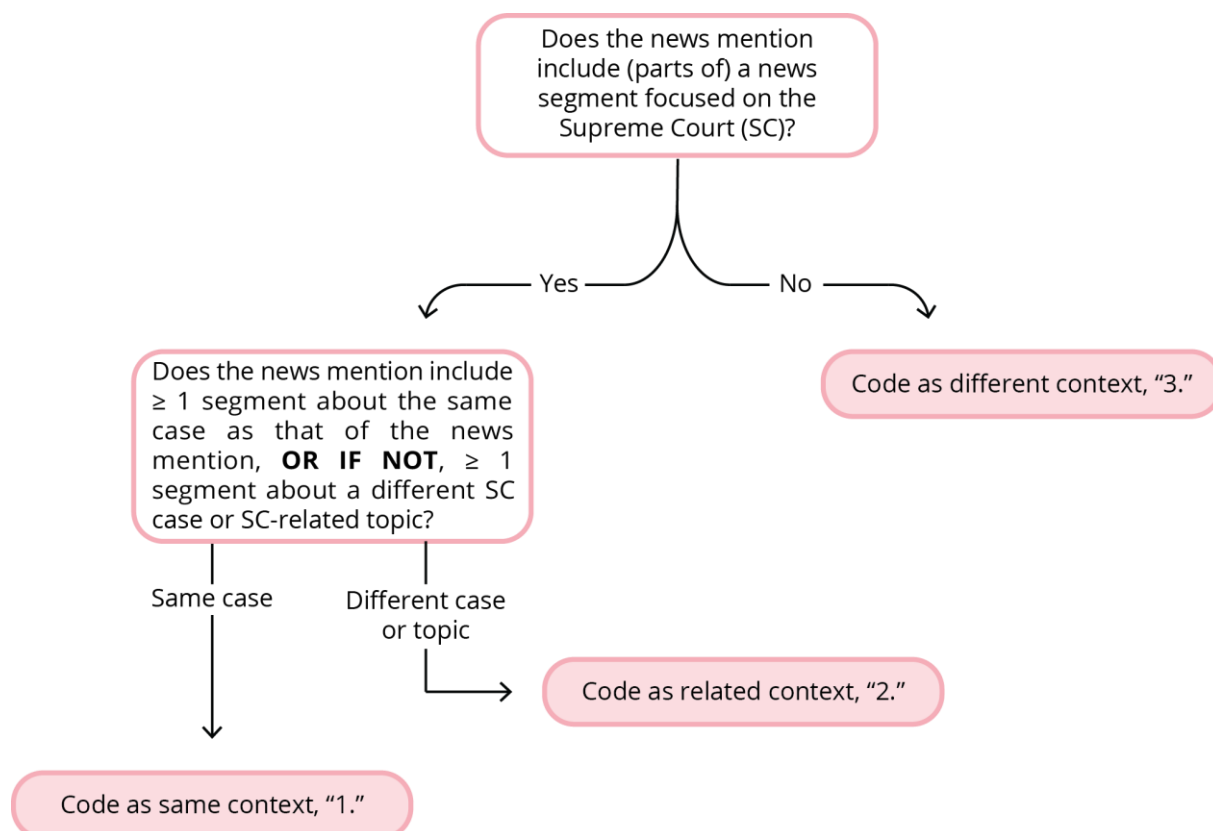
If the news mention includes 0 segments with the “same” context but ≥ 1 segment, which is about a different case as that of the news mention or a Supreme Court related topic, the context is coded as “2” (related) even if other parts of the news mention include segments with a “different” context.

Only if the news mention includes 0 segments with the “same” and 0 segments with a “related” context, and ≥ 1 segment about a topic that is not related to the Supreme Court, the context is coded as “3” (different).

To determine the context of a news mention, you need to open the original news transcript, locate all parts of the news mention, look at in which segments these parts appear, and identify the appropriate context (or value).

Figure 2

Coding for News Mention Context



► **Same (1)**

Type "1" if ≥ 1 news segment included in the news mention is about the same case as that in the news mention.

These segments can be about:

- A case accepted/heard/decided by the Court; or
- The aftermath or impact of a specific case or cases (a helpful question to keep in mind is: would this news report exist without that Supreme Court case? If no, type "1". If yes, and the case only provides additional context to the story, look at "related" and "different."); or
- Supreme Court term/year previews (also type "1" if several cases are mentioned); or
- Legislative efforts that are said to be a direct response to Supreme Court cases; or
- Other court cases that cite the Supreme Court case in their reasoning

► Related (2)

Type “2” if 0 segments included in the news mention have the “same” context but ≥ 1 segment is about a different Supreme Court case than that in the news mention or a different Supreme Court-related topic.

These segments can be about:

- Cases that might be accepted by the Supreme Court; or
- Supreme Court retirements/nominations/confirmation hearings; or
- Other news about the Justices

► Different (3)

Type “3” if 0 segments have the “same” or “related” context, and the segments included in the news mention are about a topic that is not related to the Supreme Court.

These segments can be about:

- Business/economics; or
- Politics/legislation; or
- Other court/legal stories, including state Supreme Courts, where the Supreme Court case is used to provide context

Segment Format

Brief Definition: Segment format refers to the format of a single, undivided extent of airtime of the respective news program, which is included in the news mention either in full or in part.

Variables: News Anchor, Correspondent, Panel/Debate/Editorial Interview, and News Interview

Possible Values: Absent (0), Present (1)

Since a news mention combines all relevant parts of a transcript, it can include (parts of) multiple news segments. For this reason, each news mention is coded for the presence or absence of each of the four segment formats (see variables above).

To determine the segment formats, you need to open the original news transcript, locate all parts of the news mention, look at the segments in which these parts were included, and identify the appropriate segment formats.

► News Anchor (0, 1)

Type “1” if only the news anchor presents the news segment.

If the anchor uses clips/soundbites, only code for anchor. This also applies when the case is mentioned in these clips/soundbites but not by the anchor themselves.

News anchors are identified through:

- Speaker tags: e.g., “anchor,” “host;” or
- Anchor introduction: e.g., “Good evening. I’m Bret Baier.”, “I’m Shannon Bream in for Bret Baier.”

Type “0” if no anchor only segment is included in the news mention. For example, if the anchor mentions the case in the preview or introduction to or as part of a correspondent, panel, or interview segment, type “0” for anchor, and code “1” for the respective segment.

► Correspondent (0, 1)

Type “1” if one or more news correspondent segments are included in the news mention. This is not limited to law correspondents.

If the correspondent uses clips/soundbites, only code for correspondent.

If *Hardball* (MSNBC) news mentions include NBC correspondents, code correspondents as present (1).

News correspondents are identified through:

- Speaker tags: e.g., “Fox News (...) Correspondent;” or
- Anchor introduction: e.g., “Here’s our (...) correspondent;” or
- Correspondent sign-off: e.g., “Tim O’Brien, ABC News”

Type “0” if no news correspondent segment is included in the news mention.

► News Interview (0, 1)

Type “1” if news interviews are included in the news mention.

If the anchor or correspondent uses clips/soundbites, only code for anchor or correspondent respectively.

News interviews are identified through:

- Anchor introduction: guests involved in reported event (newsmaker interview) or have specialized knowledge on the subject (background interview); or

- Format: *Feels* like interview was conducted for audience benefit, mostly adheres to Q&A format; or
 - Anchor participation: Does not express their own opinion, debate, criticize, support, or defend interviewees; or
 - Interviewee participation: Does not ask questions, change the topic, make unsolicited comments, argue with other interviewees instead of addressing the anchor
- If the news segment briefly departs from this format, but otherwise adheres to it, code news interview as “1.”

Type “0” if no news interview is included in the news mention.

► Panel/Debate/Editorial Interview (0, 1)

Type “1” if a panel/debate/editorial interview is included in the news mention.

If the Supreme Court case is only mentioned by the anchor introducing or participating in the segment, code panel/debate/editorial interview as “1,” and anchor as “0.”

Panels/debates/editorial interviews are identified through:

- Anchor introduction: Segment referred to as “panel” or “roundtable,” subject introduced as debatable or controversial, foreshadows polarized debate (e.g., guests with opposing views, “both sides of the argument”); or
- Format: *Feels* like audience listening to private conversation, expert analysis or commentary; or
- Anchor participation: Expresses their own opinion, debates, criticizes, supports, or defends interviewees; or
- Interviewee participation: Asks questions, changes the topic, makes unsolicited comments, argues with other interviewees instead of addressing the anchor

Type “0” if no panel/debate/editorial interview is included in the news mention.

Reliability Coding

Two coders, using the same coding instrument (see this appendix, above), independently analyzed a random draw of approximately 10 percent of coded news mentions ($n = 79$). For this, I first grouped news mentions by context, and randomly selected 10 percent of each. I then added an additional 7 news mentions drawn randomly from the “related” group (selected because it had the fewest mentions included) to ensure that 10 percent of all segment formats were included as well.

I present several measures of agreement. I include percent agreement, which is intuitive but overestimates true intercoder agreement. I also present Krippendorff’s alpha and Cohen’s alpha, both of which are more flexible and can account for multiple coders. Scores that approach 1 are indicative of greater agreement between coders. In most fields, a threshold of .7 is seen as an acceptable score of reliability. The results in Table 2 below show that we have met and often exceeded that threshold for all measures.

Table 2

Reliability Coding Scores

Variable (N = 79)	% Agreement	Cohen’s Kappa	Krippendorff’s Alpha
Mention Context (Same = 41; Related = 18; Different = 20)	89.9	0.837	0.838
Segment Format			
Anchor Only (n = 17)	98.7	0.963	0.964
Correspondent (n = 40)	100	1	1
News Interview (n = 11)	93.7	0.763	0.764
Debate (n = 20)	94.5	0.857	0.857