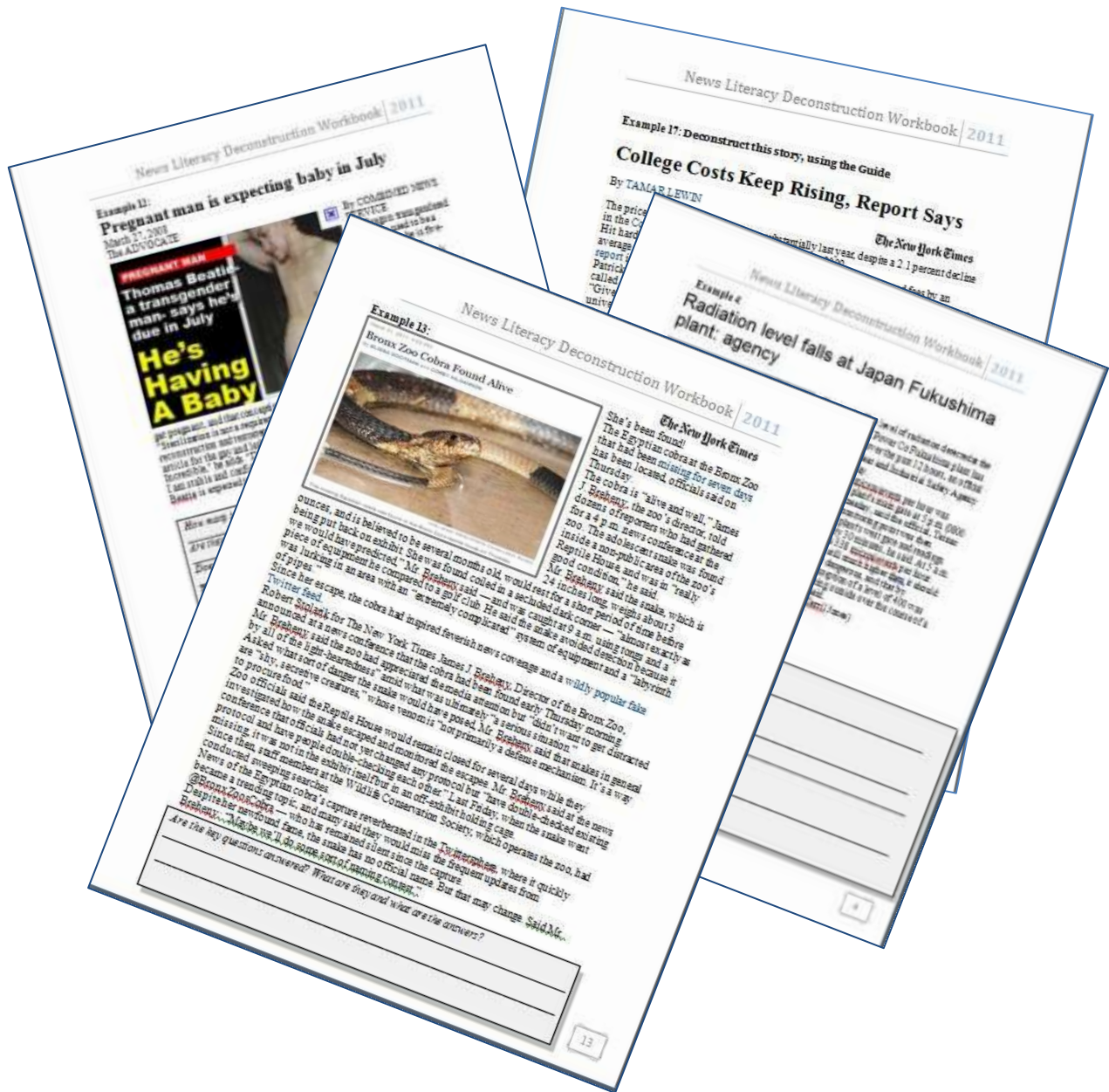


DECONSTRUCTION WORKBOOK

10/28/2014



Over the coming weeks, you'll use this workbook - stocked with examples from actual news reports- to practice "Deconstruction," which is a methodical series of steps by which you apply News Literacy concepts to the analysis of component parts of a news report. The Deconstruction steps are in a chart on the back page of this workbook.

Reminder: Examples in this workbook are drawn from actual news reports, but some have been shortened or altered from the original to suit the purposes of News Literacy exercises.

Headline and Story...Do they match?

Assaults Plague Campus

On October 17, 2006, Peter Baigent, the Vice President of Student Affairs sent an e-mail to the entire university informing students, staff and faculty of the recent sexual assault of two female students.

According to Douglas Little, Assistant Chief of the Stony Brook Police Department, the two men allegedly involved with the assault are known to the police. Little commented, "Both the Suffolk County police and Stony Brook Police departments are working on the case together."

When asked about the safety of the campus community with respect to this recent incident, Little mentioned, "There is no threat to the campus community." However, upon further questioning, Little did continue on to say that the campus community should remain vigilant when considering these types of crimes.

Little reported, "Sexual assault is a very underreported crime." He continued, "The [two] women were very courageous, and the university has given them 100% support." Little was unable to provide any information about the location of the attack on campus because of possible violations of the privacy of the two female students.

Aside from this recent incident, students also have the ability to become involved with the pro-active measures set in place by the university to minimize the occurrence of such attacks.

The headline is the sales pitch for the story. It's purpose is to catch the reader's attention honestly and makes them want to keep reading.

It doesn't need to summarize the entire story, but it should convey the main point.

Is this headline adequately supported in this story? Point to specifics in the story.

Headline and Story...Do they match?



Black Panther hails ax attack on cops

By Priscilla DeGregory, Kevin Sheehan and Kirstan Conley

October 27, 2014 | 5:11am

The Muslim extremist who attacked rookie cops with a hatchet last week was “a crusader seeking justice” — and more assaults will likely follow, the head of his local New Black Panther Party warned.

“It probably won’t be the last [attack on police] because you have a lot of frustrated people out here,” Queens chapter leader Frank Sha Francois told The Post.

Francois said ax-wielding Zale Thompson wasn’t officially a member of his group, but he came to meetings and they talked about “police brutality” cases such as Eric Garner and Michael Brown.

“I don’t condone violence, but something needs to be done,” Francois said. “We need to have some type of deterrent and real oversight to deter the police from violating the laws and to know they are not above the laws.”

While he hailed the ax man as a “crusader,” Francois insisted he didn’t agree with Thompson’s methods.

“I tell people that to go up against law enforcement in this country is suicide,” he said. “Our main way to deal with it is to rally and boycotting.”

Thompson, 32, was a jihadist sympathizer who hated cops and white people, his family and friends have said. He was shot dead on a Jamaica, Queens, sidewalk Thursday after he lunged with a blue-handled hatchet at four rookie cops, striking Officer Joseph Meeker, 24, in the arm and Officer Kenneth Healey, 25, in the back of the head.

Additional reporting by Larry Celona and Elizabeth Hagen

The headline is the sales pitch for the story. Its purpose is to catch the reader’s attention honestly and makes them want to keep reading. It doesn’t need to summarize the entire story, but it should convey the main point.

Is this headline adequately supported in this story? Point to specifics in the story.

Opening the Freezer

Searching for the next Ebola in the Congo Basin



A mecca for biodiversity is also home to millions of viruses, many as yet unidentified

October 23, 2014 5:00AM ET

by Elaisha Stokes @ElaishaStokes

(KISANGANI, Democratic Republic of Congo — At a crowded stall hidden deep in the the city’s central market, a group of women hover over charred pieces of meat. They call out to the passing

shoppers: \$4 for an antelope, \$6 for the thigh of a bush pig. For \$10, you can purchase an entire monkey. Officially, the sale of bush meat is illegal, and when the market chief walks by, the women quickly shove their wares into tattered plastic bags hidden behind the concrete slab tables.

“I sell everything,” says Motumbe Marie Biako, who has been a vendor at this particular stall for the last 10 years. “Usually I have monkey, wild pig, antelope, python. Even bat. But I’m not selling bat today.”

The sale of bush meat, she laments, has slowed. Not because it’s illegal to purchase, but because a constant stream of programming on the local radio station has convinced Biako’s customers that they are better off eating more typical dinner fare, like chicken or beef.

“People are saying, ‘Ebola, Ebola,’” she sighs. “I’m eating it. My family has been eating it for generations. How come I don’t have Ebola?” According to Biako, monkey is the sweetest meat, and if Ebola gets her, it won’t be from eating a primate.

The Congo Basin is the world’s second-largest tropical rain forest, after the Amazon. The forest is also home to more than 270 species of mammals, including endangered gorillas and the elusive forest giraffe, the okapi. It’s a mecca for biodiversity, a giant lung for the earth and an important resource for the 40 million people who live along its borders. But the Congo Basin is also home to millions of viruses, many of which have yet to be identified. And the deeper that people encroach into the forest, the greater the likelihood that those viruses will make the jump to humans from other animals.

Circle examples of “Opening the Freezer” the reporter directly collecting/examining evidence she uses to tell this story. Put a square box around examples of evidence she collected without opening the freezer. (warning: it’s a bit subtle.)

Bus Driver Caught on Camera Calling Student a 'Crybaby' Texas School District Later Fired the Bus Driver



By GIO BENITEZ
April 3, 2014

Texas officials fired a school bus driver after an on-board camera caught her calling a sobbing student “crybaby” and urging other children to chime in and mock the girl.

The video, first obtained by ABC News affiliate KSAT-TV in San Antonio, shows the bus driver from Floresville Elementary School in southern Texas berating the student.

“Ready?” she asked the students. “Cry ... cry ... cry ... I want my mama.”

The video was apparently recorded in late February or early March. Monna Perez, whose children ride the same bus, was horrified after seeing the footage.

“I think it’s horrible, especially if it’s my child crying?” Perez said. “If you can’t bully at school, why are they allowing it on the bus?”

Floresville Independent School District Superintendent Sherri Bays, who did not identify the driver, told ABC News that her behavior was unacceptable.

“I was very concerned with that, and it’s definitely not appropriate,” Bays said. “I think she’s acting very childish and immature.”

The school’s PTA is also disappointed, saying in a statement, “The video is of great concern to everyone who has watched it.”

The driver is no longer employed by the district, Bays told ABC News..

*Circle any examples of the reporter opening the freezer.
How does this kind of evidence strengthen the report?*

Evaluating Anonymous Sources

We have discussed three elements to look for when weighing an anonymous source. Based on your findings, how much weight do you give this anonymous source?

Missiles of ISIS May Pose Peril for Aircrews

By KIRK SEMPLE and ERIC SCHMITT OCT. 26, 2014

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales				
Use this chart to evaluate each source.				
Source: "senior American Military official"				
Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Self-Interested
Explain:				
Multiple (Corroborated)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lone/Solitary
Explain:				
Verifies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asserts
Explain:				
Authoritative/Informed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unauthoritative/Uninformed
Explain:				
Named	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anonymous
Explain:				
Overall, how reliable is information from this source?				
Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Unreliable		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat Unreliable		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat Reliable		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Reliable		

aggressive phase in Iraq, allied airstrikes will also intensify. American officials say they fully expect that the push will bring out more proof of the jihadists' antiaircraft abilities, with potentially serious consequences for how the Iraqis and their coalition partners "Based on past conflicts," said one senior American military official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss delicate intelligence assessments, the missiles "are game changers out there."

BAGHDAD — From the battlefield near Baiji, an Islamic State jihadist fired a heat-seeking missile and blew an Iraqi Army Mi-35M attack helicopter out of the sky this month, killing its two crew members.

Days later, the Islamic State released a chilling series of images from a video purporting to capture the attack in northern [Iraq](#): a jihadist hiding behind a wall with a Chinese-made missile launcher balanced on his shoulder; the missile blasting from the tube, its contrail swooping upward as it tracked its target; the fiery impact and the wreckage on a rural road.

The helicopter was one of several Iraqi military helicopters that the militants claim to have shot down this year, and the strongest evidence yet that Islamic State fighters in Iraq are using advanced surface-to-air missile systems that pose a serious threat to aircraft flown by Iraq and the American-led coalition.

As the counteroffensive against the Islamic State enters a more

Who or what is missing from this report?

Peer jury finds teen girls engage in 'vicious' cyberbullying

By Karen Ann Cullotta, Tribune reporter 12:26 PM CDT, April 3, 2014

While boys appear before the New Trier Township Peer Jury more than three times as often as girls, officials said recently that they are troubled by the severity of the cyberbullying crimes committed by teen girls.

Brian Leverenz, New Trier Township's community service administrator, said of the 35 teens who appeared before the township's peer jury in 2013, 27 were males and 8 were females. Still, Leverenz said he was concerned that girls were often accused of cyberbullying offenses he described as among the peer jury's "worst cases."

"The boys' cases tend to be primarily criminal damage to property and drug and alcohol cases," Leverenz said. "But these cyberbullying cases involving the girls are particularly nasty.

"A boy might beat up another boy, and the next day, they're friends again," Leverenz added. "But the girls are committing psychological warfare against each other, and it's just vicious."

Since the township's peer jury was established in 1998, Leverenz said officials have seen an uptick in the number of teens pleading their cases each year, jumping from 12 teens the first year of the program to an all-time high of 57 teenagers in 2012.

Of the 35 teens whose cases were brought before the township's peer jury in 2013, Leverenz said, 14 lived in Winnetka, nine in Northfield, eight in Wilmette and four in Glencoe.

In all, 601 teens have appeared before the peer jury in the past 15 years, with most teens sentenced to complete community service hours at local organizations, Leverenz said, including the township's food pantry and local libraries and park districts.

Leverenz said a major benefit of the peer jury program is that first-time offenders who complete their required hours of community service often have no lasting juvenile record that can hinder them later in life, for example, when applying to colleges.

"We see teens who are straight-A students, who play three sports and are in the band," Leverenz. "But a juvenile record can mean their auto insurance goes up by 35 percent."

He said the jury has been a success in many ways, something he attributes in part to those on the jury itself.

"These high school kids who serve on the peer jury do an excellent job," Leverenz said. "And the community service hours required of the offenders have helped local organizations save the expense of having to hire extra staff."

Who or what is missing from this report?

Does the evidence support the conclusion?

Crime Blotter Has a Regular: Yankees Caps

By MANNY FERNANDEZ

Published: September 15, 2010

A curious phenomenon has emerged at the intersection of fashion, sports and crime: dozens of men and women who have robbed, beaten, stabbed and shot at their fellow New Yorkers have done so while wearing Yankees caps or clothing.

Yankees caps and clothing have dominated the crime blotter for so long, in so many parts of the city and in so many types of offenses, that it defies an easy explanation. Criminologists, sports marketing analysts, consumer psychologists and Yankees fans have developed their own theories, with some attributing the trend to the popularity of the caps among gangsta rappers and others wondering whether criminals are identifying with the team's aura of money, power and success.

Since 2000, more than 100 people who have been suspects or persons of interest in connection with serious crimes in New York City wore Yankees apparel at the time of the crimes or at the time of their arrest or arraignment. The tally is based on a review of New York Police Department news releases, surveillance video and images of robberies and other crimes, as well as police sketches and newspaper articles that described suspects' clothing. No other sports team comes close.

One criminologist said the trend might be a result of what could be called the Jay-Z effect.

The rapper Jay-Z has worn a Yankees cap for years — on his album covers and in his videos — and has helped turn the cap into a ubiquitous fashion accessory for urban youths (“I made the Yankee hat more famous than a Yankee can,” he boasts in one song).

It is but one of several theories. Sports marketing analysts say it is a matter of numbers: the Yankees sell more merchandise than any other baseball team. As of August, they hold a 25.13 percent market share of nationwide sales of merchandise licensed by Major League Baseball, with the Red Sox second at 7.96 percent and the Mets seventh at 5.32 percent, according to SportsOneSource, a firm that tracks the sporting goods industry.

For criminals outside New York, the team's caps and clothing are nearly as popular.

The man who robbed a Chase branch in a Chicago suburb in May wore a Yankees cap. In July, a young man in a Yankees cap assaulted an 81-year-old woman in her home, about 2,800 miles from Yankee Stadium, in Seattle.

“Why people pick the Yankees over the Mariners, I don't know,” said Detective Mark Jamieson, a Seattle police spokesman. “It just happened to be an article of clothing he was wearing on that particular day.”

Find an example of direct evidence and of indirect evidence and circle it.

Evidence is always evidence of something. What are people saying the evidence in this story is evidence of? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Indirect Evidence and Drawing Conclusions

In Cold War, U.S. Spy Agencies Used 1,000 Nazis

By ERIC LICHTBLAU

OCT. 26, 2014

WASHINGTON — In the decades after World War II, the C.I.A. and other United States agencies employed at least a thousand Nazis as Cold War spies and informants and, as recently as the 1990s, concealed the government's ties to some still living in America, newly disclosed records and interviews show.



Aleksandras Lileikis was a Nazi officer implicated in 60,000 Jews' deaths. He later worked for the C.I.A. Credit U.S. Department of Justice

At the height of the Cold War in the 1950s, law enforcement and intelligence leaders like J. Edgar Hoover at the F.B.I. and Allen Dulles at the C.I.A. aggressively recruited onetime Nazis of all ranks as secret, anti-Soviet “assets,” declassified records show. They believed the ex-Nazis’ intelligence value against the Russians outweighed what one official called “moral lapses” in their service to the Third Reich.

The agency hired one former SS officer as a spy in the 1950s, for instance, even after concluding he was probably guilty of “minor war crimes.”

And in 1994, a lawyer with the C.I.A. pressured prosecutors to drop an investigation into an ex-spy outside Boston implicated in the Nazis’ massacre of tens of thousands of Jews in Lithuania, according to a government official.

Evidence of the government’s links to Nazi spies began emerging publicly in the 1970s. But thousands of records from declassified files, Freedom of Information Act requests and other sources, together with interviews with scores of current and former government officials, show that the government’s recruitment of Nazis ran far deeper than previously known and that officials sought to conceal those ties for at least a half-century after the war.

In 1980, F.B.I. officials refused to tell even the Justice Department’s own Nazi hunters what they knew about 16 suspected Nazis living in the United States. The bureau balked at a request from prosecutors for internal records on the Nazi suspects, memos show, because the 16 men had all worked as F.B.I. informants, providing leads on Communist “sympathizers.” Five of the men were still active informants. Refusing to turn over the records, a bureau official in a memo stressed the need for “protecting the confidentiality of such sources of information to the fullest possible extent.”

Some spies for the United States had worked at the highest levels for the Nazis.

One SS officer, Otto von Bolschwing, was a mentor and top aide to Adolf Eichmann, architect of the “Final Solution,” and wrote policy papers on how to terrorize Jews.

Yet after the war, the C.I.A. not only hired him as a spy in Europe, but relocated him and his family to New York City in 1954, records show. The move was seen as a “a reward for his loyal postwar service and in view of the innocuousness of his [Nazi] party activities,” the agency wrote.

His son, Gus von Bolschwing, who learned many years later of his father’s ties to the Nazis, sees the relationship between the spy agency and his father as one of mutual convenience forged by the Cold War. “They used him, and he used them,” Gus von Bolschwing, now 75, said in an interview. “It shouldn’t have happened. He never should have been admitted to the United States. It wasn’t consistent with our values as a country.”

In all, the American military, the C.I.A., the F.B.I. and other agencies used at least 1,000 ex-Nazis and collaborators as spies and informants after the war, according to Richard Breitman, a Holocaust scholar at American University who was on a government-appointed team that declassified war-crime records.

Circle examples of indirect evidence. What conclusions are sources drawing? Is their conclusion the only one supported by the evidence or their observation(s)?

Does the evidence support the conclusion?

Pulling all-nighters earns lower GPAs

By Michael Virtanen, Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Students who rely on all-nighters to bring up their grades might want to sleep on that strategy: A new survey says those who never study all night have slightly higher GPAs than those who do.

A survey of 120 students at St. Lawrence University, a small liberal arts college in northern New York, found that students who have never pulled an all-nighter have average GPAs of 3.1, compared to 2.9 for those who have.

The study, by assistant professor of psychology Pamela Thacher, is to be included in the January issue of [Behavioral Sleep Medicine](#).

"It's not a big difference, but it's pretty striking," Thacher said. "I am primarily a sleep researcher and I know nobody thinks clearly at 4 in the morning. You think you do, but you can't."

A second study by Thacher, a clinical psychologist, had "extremely similar" results showing lower grades among the sleep skippers. Many college students, of course, have inadequate or irregular sleep, for reasons ranging from excessive caffeine to poor time management.

Prav Chatani, a St. Lawrence sophomore who wasn't involved in either study, said the findings made sense.

The neuroscience major has been pulling fewer all-nighters, but recently stayed up until "around 4 or 5 in the morning" to prepare for an organic chemistry test and a neuroscience presentation, he said.

He found himself unable to remember some of the things he had studied.

"A lot of students were under the impression all-nighters were a very useful tool for accomplishing work, that caffeine intake was very useful in meeting deadlines and stuff like that," said Chatani, who had a 3.4 GPA last semester and doesn't expect to do too badly this semester, either. Dr. Howard Weiss, a physician at St. Peter's Sleep Center in Albany, said the study results make sense.

"Certainly that data is out there showing that short sleep duration absolutely interferes with concentration, interferes with performance on objective testing," he said.

What conclusions are made? Could one come to a different conclusion? Is there a problem in the reasoning?

Evaluating Sources



The death toll in a horrific bus accident on a New York highway has risen to 14.

Police Department spokesman Paul Browne says a passenger who had initially survived the wreck died at a hospital Saturday afternoon.

Authorities say there were about 32 people aboard the bus when it overturned on Interstate 95 as it returned from the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut.

As it toppled, the bus was sliced, end to end, by the support pole for a large sign.

The accident happened at about 5:30 a.m. on the New England Thruway at the Hutchinson River Parkway in the Bronx.

The bus was heading southbound when it flipped on its side. It then skidded into the support post for a large highway sign. The post sliced through the length of the bus at the passenger seat level, officials said.

New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said the bus was moving at "a significant rate of speed," according to ABC station WABC-TV in New York.

Shamel Bookard and Ashanti Jackson, friends of Oferdel Williams, the driver of the bus, described him as the kind of person who is likely overwhelmed with sadness at what happened.

"I'm sure he's greatly sorry for what did happen," Jackson told WABC-TV.

They said Williams is known for his courage.

"Years ago he ran into a burning building and saved a family, there was a girl, a grandmother in a wheelchair, he brought them out the fire," Bookard told WABC-TV.

"Our -- and the entire city's -- prayers, thoughts and sympathies are with the victims, and their families and loved ones," said New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg in a statement.

What is asserted?

What kind of evidence is used to verify the death toll?

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Paul Browne, Raymond Kelly, Ashanti Jackson, Shamel Bookard using the IM'VAIN worksheet.

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales				
Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.				
Source: <i>Paul Browne</i>				
Independent				Self-Interested
Explain:				
Multiple (Corroborated)				Lone/Solitary
Explain:				
Verifies				Asserts
Explain:				
Authoritative/Informed				Unauthoritative/Uninformed
Explain:				
Named				Anonymous
Explain:				
Overall, how reliable is information from this source?				
Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.		Very Unreliable		
		Somewhat Unreliable		
		Somewhat Reliable		
		Very Reliable		
Explain:				
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>				

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Raymond Kelly*

Independent

Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Ashanti Jackson*

Independent

Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales

Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.

Source: *Shamel Bookard*

Independent

--	--

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--	--

Self-Interested

Explain:

Multiple (Corroborated)

--	--

--	--

--	--

Lone/Solitary

Explain:

Verifies

--	--

--	--

--	--

Asserts

Explain:

Authoritative/Informed

--	--

--	--

--	--

Unauthoritative/Uninformed

Explain:

Named

--	--

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--	--

Anonymous

Explain:

Overall, how reliable is information from this source?

Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.

Very Unreliable

Somewhat Unreliable

Somewhat Reliable

Very Reliable

Explain:

Context and Transparency

Teen rape trial shines unwelcome spotlight on Ohio town, football team

By Chelsea J. Carter, CNN

updated 10:27 PM EDT, Tue March 12, 2013

Two 16-year-old teens, Trent Mays and Ma'lik Richmond, are charged with rape. The boys are accused of sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl at end-of-summer parties. Portions of the alleged assaults were chronicled on social media by partygoers.

(CNN) -- With the two boys at the center of the case set to go to trial on rape charges on Wednesday, an unwelcome national spotlight is shining on Steubenville, Ohio.

Photos, video and social media messages are at the heart of criminal charges against the two players -- Trent Mays and Ma'lik Richmond, both juveniles -- accused of sexually assaulting the girl during a series of end-of-summer parties in August.

Both boys have been identified by a judge in court, by defense attorneys and in newspapers and other media reports.

CNN is not identifying the girl, who also is a juvenile, in accordance with its policy not to release the names of alleged rape victims.

Text messages posted to social networking sites that night seemed to brag about the incident, calling the girl "sloppy," making references to rape and suggesting that she had been urinated on, Goddard has said. CNN has not been able to establish whether this is true.

In one 12-minute video, posted by Anonymous, one teenager makes multiple jokes about the girl's condition, saying she must have died because she didn't move during one assault.

Steubenville was once a thriving steel mill town. With the mills closed, the town is a shadow of its former self as a number of its residents moved away to find work elsewhere and a number of businesses closed.

Today, its population is primarily blue collar with a median income between \$33,000 and \$34,000, well below the national average.

*Circle any examples of context or transparency that you discover.
How do they enable you to make sense of the information in this report?*

Context

Obama Averages 41.5% Job Approval in His 23rd Quarter

Among the lowest quarterly averages of his presidency

by Jeffrey M. Jones



Story Highlights

- Barack Obama averaged 41.5% approval during his 23rd quarter.
- Obama has had only two lower quarterly averages.
- His 23rd qtr. ranks among the lowest for post-WWII presidents

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- President Barack Obama's job approval rating averaged 41.5% during his 23rd quarter in office, which began on July 20 and ended on Oct. 19. That ranks as one of his lowest quarterly approval ratings to date. The only two that were lower were the 41.2% in his 20th quarter -- after the troubled launch of the health insurance exchanges last fall -- and the 41.0% in his 11th quarter during the negotiations to raise the federal debt limit and its fallout on the U.S. economy.

Barack Obama's Quarterly Job Approval Averages



Five post-World War II presidents have been elected to office twice and served a full 23rd quarter in office. Among these, George W. Bush has the lowest 23rd quarter average approval rating at 39.1%, just slightly lower than Obama's. In contrast, Dwight Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton were much more popular at this stage in their presidencies, with average 23rd quarter approval ratings of 56% or better. The importance of a president's 23rd quarter average cannot be

understated, as it signifies his political standing heading into the second midterm election of his presidency. Typically the president's party's fortunes in the midterms are heavily tied to his popularity.

Quarterly Job Approval Averages for Presidents During Their 23rd Quarter in Office, Presidents Elected to Two Terms

President	Dates of 23rd quarter	23rd quarter job approval average	Number of polls
Eisenhower	Jul 20-Oct 19, 1958	56.4%	5
Reagan	Jul 20-Oct 19, 1986	61.7%	3
Clinton	Jul 20-Oct 19, 1998	63.9%	8
G.W. Bush	Jul 20-Oct 19, 2006	39.1%	8
Obama	Jul 20-Oct 19, 2014	41.5%	90

Richard Nixon resigned during his 23rd quarter in office. He had a 24% job approval rating in the only poll conducted during that quarter prior to his resignation.

Harry Truman was not elected to his first term in office but was elected to a second term and served a 23rd quarter in office. Truman averaged 37.3% approval from Oct. 20, 1950-Jan. 19, 1951.

GALLUP

Circle any examples of context that you discover.

How do they enable you to make sense of the information in this report?

Analyzing Journalistic Evidence, Evaluating Sources

Ebola jitters for some, but not all, New Yorkers



Applicants enter the crowded Avenue L subway station in Williamsburg that was avoided by Craig Spencer, a Queens resident. Spencer's physician father feared isolation for the Ebola virus in the subway. Spencer's recent visit to the city after leaving the hospital in West Africa. AP Photo/John Minicelli

By Jocelyn Noveck, Associated Press

Traveling into Manhattan by subway from Brooklyn on Friday, the day after a New York doctor was diagnosed with Ebola, Dennis Johnson and his fiancée, Lian Robinson, were trying to be sensible about the odds of the disease spreading.

Still, they found themselves discussing possible escape routes out of the city, just in case. "I think we'd have to drive," said Johnson, 42, noting that planes, trains and ferries were modes of transport he'd avoid. New York, he added, "is a big city. It's a melting pot."

Veronica Lopez had another way of describing the nation's most populous city: "Like a giant cesspool." The 21-year-old student was feeling especially jittery because she lives in a Harlem building next door to that of the patient, Dr. Craig Spencer, who's now in isolation at Bellevue Hospital.

New Yorkers are a hardy bunch, having weathered any number of calamities. And indeed, there were plenty of signs that most people were sticking to their normal routines Friday, heeding Mayor Bill De Blasio's assurance that there was no reason to be alarmed.

"I'm not that worried about it," said grad student Eric Pedersen, 33, passing through Penn Station, one of the most crowded places in the city. "It's only one confirmed case. I'm certainly not completely hysterical — that makes little sense."

On the L train — another line Spencer had ridden — a group of schoolgirls in uniform passed around a bottle of hand sanitizer. Construction worker T.J. DeMaso, 41, said he was concerned. "If the outbreaks get any more common, I'll be moving out of the city," he said. "You could catch it and not even know it. You could bring it home to your kids. That's not a chance I want to take."

Others were more relaxed. Evangeline Love was riding the train to her job with the city Human Resources Administration. "I saw the mayor and the governor," she said. "There's no need for hysteria. I'm here."

On the elevated High Line on the far West Side — also a place Spencer reported visiting, along with a Brooklyn bowling alley — Dean BeLer, a 68-year-old tourist from Williamsburg, Virginia, was taking in the view. He said New York appeared to have done a good job of handling things, "compared to the fiasco in Dallas."

Jen Paul, 43, was taking photos. "I'm not particularly afraid," she said. "I don't generally handle other people's body fluids. It would be a shame if the bowling alley and other businesses were to suffer because of needless fears."

But for Stan Malone, 45, who lives across the street, things were bad enough to make him — and three family members who live in Spencer's building — pack up for a hotel, where they stayed Thursday night. "I don't think this is gonna be the last case," said Malone, who said he was on his way to buy a protective mask. "To be honest, I don't even want to talk to people."

Find an example of direct evidence and circle it.

Find any conclusions drawn by sources and circle. Are the conclusions properly supported by the evidence?

On the next page, complete a source evaluation of Larry Sabato using the IM'VAIN worksheet.

Source Evaluation Chart using IMVAIN rating scales				
Put an "X" in the appropriate boxes, then explain each rating.				
Source: <i>Larry Sabato</i>				
Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Self-Interested
Explain:				
Multiple (Corroborated)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lone/Solitary
Explain:				
Verifies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asserts
Explain:				
Authoritative/Informed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unauthoritative/Uninformed
Explain:				
Named	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anonymous
Explain:				
Overall, how reliable is information from this source?				
Put an "X" in the appropriate box, then explain your rating.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Unreliable		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat Unreliable		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat Reliable		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very Reliable		
Explain:				
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>				

Sourcing and Context

Pregnant man is expecting baby in July

March 27, 2008

The ADVOCATE Magazine



By COMBINED NEWS SERVICE

An Oregon transgendered man who used to be a woman says he is five-months pregnant.

Thomas Beatie, who's expecting a girl, tells his story in a first-person account published in "The Advocate" magazine.

Beatie is legally a male and lives with his wife, Nancy. He claims to have stopped taking his testosterone injections to get pregnant, and that conception was achieved through home insemination.

"Sterilization is not a requirement for sex reassignment, so I decided to have chest reconstruction and testosterone therapy but kept my reproductive rights," he writes in the article for the gay and lesbian magazine. "How does it feel to be a pregnant man? Incredible," he adds. "Despite the fact that my belly is growing with a new life inside me, I am stable and confident being the man that I am."

Beatie is expected to give birth in July.

How many sources are used?

Are they reliable? Why or why not?

Does the reporter place the story in context?

What is missing from this story?

Key Questions



The New York Times

She's been found!

The Egyptian cobra at the Bronx Zoo that had been [missing for seven days](#) has been located, officials said on Thursday.

The cobra is “alive and well,” James J. Breheny, the zoo’s director, told dozens of reporters who had gathered for a 4 p.m. news conference at the zoo. The adolescent snake was found inside a non-public area of the zoo’s Reptile House, and was in “really good condition,” he said.

Mr. Breheny said the snake, which is 24 inches long, weighs about 3 ounces, and is believed to be several months old, would rest for a short period of time before being put back on exhibit. She was found coiled in a secluded dark corner — “almost exactly as we would have predicted,” Mr. Breheny said — and was caught at 9 a.m. using tongs and a piece of equipment he compared to a golf club. He said the snake avoided detection because it was lurking in an area with an “extremely complicated” system of equipment and a “labyrinth of pipes.”

Since her escape, the cobra had inspired feverish news coverage and a [wildly popular fake Twitter feed](#).

Robert Stolarik for The New York Times James J. Breheny, Director of the Bronx Zoo, announced at a news conference that the cobra had been found early Thursday morning.

Mr. Breheny said the zoo had appreciated the media attention but “didn’t want to get distracted by all of the light-heartedness” amid what was ultimately “a serious situation.”

Asked what sort of danger the snake would have posed, Mr. Breheny said that snakes in general are “shy, secretive creatures,” whose venom is “not primarily a defense mechanism. It’s a way to procure food.”

Zoo officials said the Reptile House would remain closed for several days while they investigated how the snake escaped and monitored the escapee. Mr. Breheny said at the news conference that officials had not yet changed any protocol but “have double-checked existing protocol and have people double-checking each other.” Last Friday, when the snake went missing, it was not in the exhibit itself but in an off-exhibit holding cage.

Since then, staff members at the Wildlife Conservation Society, which operates the zoo, had conducted sweeping searches.

News of the Egyptian cobra’s capture reverberated in the Twittersphere, where it quickly became a trending topic, and many said they would miss the frequent updates from @BronxZoosCobra — who has remained silent since the capture.

Despite her newfound fame, the snake has no official name. But that may change. Said Mr. Breheny: “Maybe we’ll do some sort of naming contest.”

Are the key questions answered? What are they and what are the answers?

Assertions, Fairness and Context



If you're trying to determine whether the ground chuck you buy in the grocery store contains so-called pink slime, or lean beef trimmings, you won't find it on the ingredient list.

"It's not required to be labeled," explains Don Schaffner, a food scientist at Rutgers University.

An estimated 70 percent of the ground beef supply contains these lean bits of meat derived from muscle and connective tissue. The industry calls the trimmings Lean Finely Textured Beef.

Chances Are 'Pink Slime' Is In Grocery Store Beef, Too

With Thursday's USDA announcement giving schools the options to order beef that does not include these trimmings, and the publicity over the online petition initiated by The Lunch Tray blogger Bettina Siegel, which quickly drew more than 200,000 signatures, it's clear that there's a lot of disgust over the concept of pink slime. And with a name like this, how could there not be?

But Schaffner says the suggestion of an ooey, gooey liquid is deceiving. Lost in the social-media outrage, he says, is the understanding that lean beef trimmings are a way of taking fatty bits of meat and extracting the lean part.

"What the process does is take the mostly fat trimmings and heat them up so the fat becomes a liquid," explains Schaffner, "and then uses a process to separate the lean portion from the fat portion."

The safety concerns stem from reports that the lean beef trimmings are likely to harbor pathogens, such as E. coli or Salmonella and other bacteria. And Schaffner, who has worked as a consultant to the meat industry, says this is true. "The bacteria risk comes from the fact that these are pieces that are being cut away from the outside of the meat, and that's where the bacteria are likely to be."

The industry recognizes this, and has adopted a practice of treating the meat trimmings with a gas made of ammonium hydroxide. This kills the pathogen, but according to critics, even if it solves one problem, it creates another. They say using ammonium hydroxide is gross, and they worry about its safety. The American Meat Institute defends the practice. "This is not the same ammonia you'd use in cleaning supplies," explains Betsy Booren of the AMI Foundation. "It's a gas, it's a different compound, and it's a well-established processing intervention that has a long history of success."

List the assertions you find.

Is the story fair to meat producers? To the evidence? Explain.

What example(s) of context do you find?

Profiling Complaints by Black Shoppers Followed Changes to Stores' Security Policies

By J. DAVID GOODMAN

Published: October 29, 2013

Several months ago, a meeting was convened at Barneys New York to discuss a growing problem: A significant amount of inventory was being lost to theft. Something had to be done.

A new security management team instituted a more aggressive loss prevention strategy. Security personnel said they were encouraged to "take chances" in stopping suspicious customers, even if it meant intercepting innocent people. Bad grabs, they said they were told, were part of the business.

The number of contacts with the Police Department, made when security workers suspected a person had been shoplifting or engaging in credit card fraud, soon jumped drastically.

But along with the increase in cases, complaints began to surface from black shoppers who said they were victims of racial profiling in the store, on Madison Avenue. At least one shopper has filed a lawsuit against Barneys, and another plans to.

The lawsuits, which came to light last week and landed on the front page of The Daily News, attracted national attention for their allegations of race- and class-based discrimination. The suits raised criticism not only of Barneys, but of celebrity figures, like Jay-Z, who has a partnership with the store. They have also led to an inquiry by the state attorney general, Eric T. Schneiderman, and on Tuesday there was an unlikely meeting of the Rev. Al Sharpton and the Barneys chief executive, Mark Lee.

Across town, at the flagship Macy's store at Herald Square, at least two black shoppers, one of them the actor Robert Brown, of the HBO series "Treme," have said they were similarly stopped this year by the police after, they said, store security workers deemed their purchases suspicious. Mr. Schneiderman's inquiry also includes Macy's.

None of those who have come forward to say they were detained by the police were charged with any crime.

The accusations were particularly troublesome for Macy's, which, in 2005, reached an agreement with the state attorney general's office to amend its security practices after investigators found black and Hispanic shoppers were disproportionately stopped on suspicion of shoplifting. That agreement ended in 2008. This year, said an official familiar with the current investigation who was not permitted to comment publicly on its details, the state attorney general has received close to a dozen complaints from shoppers who said they had been profiled by security officers at Macy's.

In the case of Barneys, the official said, the state attorney general is investigating allegations of similar treatment in cases besides the two shoppers pursuing litigation.

"It has come to our office's attention that there are problems with what is now called 'shop and frisk' with some major stores in New York," Mr. Schneiderman said at a news conference in Buffalo on Tuesday.

Mr. Schneiderman said the investigation would look at the policies in the stores as well as the relationship between store security officers and the New York Police Department. Both Macy's and Barneys have denied involvement in the episodes of detention of shoppers that have come to light.

"In both of these instances, no one from Barneys New York raised any issue with these purchases," Mr. Lee said on Tuesday, after emerging from his meeting with Mr. Sharpton in Harlem. "No one from Barneys brought them to the attention of our internal security, and no one from Barneys reached out to external authorities."

The Police Department disputed that account. In both cases, "N.Y.P.D. officers were conducting unrelated investigations and took action based on information brought to their attention by Barneys employees while in the security room," said John J. McCarthy, the department's chief spokesman.

At the center of the dispute at Barneys are two young black shoppers: Trayon Christian, 19, who has filed suit against the store and the city in State Supreme Court; and Kayla Phillips, 21, who filed a notice of intent to sue.

In his suit, Mr. Christian said the trouble occurred on April 29 after he bought a Salvatore Ferragamo belt with his Chase debit card. Several blocks away on Fifth Avenue, he said, he was stopped by plainclothes police officers.

The officers questioned his ability to pay for the belt, valued at about \$350, and said the debit card must have been a fake, according to the suit. Mr. Christian was handcuffed and taken to the 19th Precinct station house where he was held, according to the suit, for about two hours before being freed.

Ms. Phillips described being “stopped, frisked, searched and detained” by the police at the store after a purchase at Barneys of a handbag valued at over \$2,000.

Both stops, as well as two more related to shoppers at Macy’s, were being investigated by the Police Department’s Internal Affairs Bureau, Mr. McCarthy said.

The security changes Barneys put into effect were detailed by Raymel Cardona, a former assistant manager for loss prevention at the store, and a former plainclothes security guard, Aaron Argueta, 36. Both men were fired from Barneys, and intend to challenge their dismissals with federal employment authorities, said their lawyer, J. Patrick DeLince.

Aspects of their accounts were supported by Nafeesa Baptiste, a former sales associate of five years, who said she had increasingly found herself and her black customers — some of them well-known musicians and actors — followed by plainclothes security guards “from floor to floor.”

She added that security agents frequently sought copies of receipts, in one case after a substantial cash transaction. “Because I had mostly men of color, it happened often to me,” said Ms. Baptiste, 35.

She quit Barneys last month and has reported workplace harassment to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Representatives of Barneys strongly disputed the accounts of the former workers. Charlotte Blechman, the executive vice president for communications, described the two men as “disgruntled former employees,” and singled out Mr. Argueta for installing a “bed and workout barbell in a company closet and sleeping on the job in the store multiple times.” Mr. Cardona, his supervisor, was also “fired for cause,” she said.

Deconstruct this story by answering the questions in the Deconstruction Guide

The “Delayed Lead” and Analyzing Journalistic Evidence

Link to the audio: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/21/nyregion/21immigrant.html>

An Agent, a Green Card, and a Demand for Sex

By NINA BERNSTEIN (New York Times)

No problems so far, the immigration agent told the American citizen and his 22-year-old Colombian wife at her green card interview in December. After he stapled one of their wedding photos to her application for legal permanent residency, he had just one more question: What was her cell phone number?

The calls from the agent started three days later. He hinted, she said, at his power to derail her life and deport her relatives, alluding to a brush she had with the law before her marriage. He summoned her to a private meeting. And at noon on Dec. 21, in a parked car on Queens Boulevard, he named his price — not realizing that she was recording everything on the cell phone in her purse.

“I want sex,” he said on the recording. “One or two times. That’s all. You get your green card. You won’t have to see me anymore.”

She reluctantly agreed to a future meeting. But when she tried to leave his car, he demanded oral sex “now,” to “know that you’re serious.” And despite her protests, she said, he got his way.

The 16-minute recording, which the woman first took to The New York Times and then to the Queens district attorney, suggests the vast power of low-level immigration law enforcers, and a growing desperation on the part of immigrants seeking legal status. The aftermath, which included the arrest of an immigration agent last week, underscores the difficulty and danger of making a complaint, even in the rare case when abuse of power may have been caught on tape.

No one knows how widespread sexual blackmail is, but the case echoes other instances of sexual coercion that have surfaced in recent years, including agents criminally charged in Atlanta, Miami and Santa Ana, Calif. And it raises broader questions about the system’s vulnerability to corruption at a time when millions of noncitizens live in a kind of legal no-man’s land, increasingly fearful of seeking the law’s protection.

In print journalism, the lead (pronounced “leed”) is usually the first sentence of the story. It can either summarize or entice, but it has to do so with precision and honesty. Sometimes, a news writer starts with some scene-setting or an anecdote. In that case, they quickly follow up with a “lead” that summarizes the facts and may put them in context.

-Find the lead and circle it.

-In this story, circle examples of direct and indirect evidence

-Find an example of context. Circle it.

-How close does the reporter come to opening the freezer? Explain

Deconstruct This Story (Use steps on last page of workbook)

College Costs Keep Rising, Report Says

By TAMAR LEWIN

The New York Times

The price of a college education rose substantially last year, despite a 2.1 percent decline in the Consumer Price Index from July 2008 to July 2009.

Hit hard by state budget cuts, four-year public colleges raised tuition and fees by an average of 6.5 percent last year. Prices at private colleges rose 4.4 percent, according to a report issued Tuesday by the College Board.

Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, called the increases “hugely disappointing.”

“Given the financial hardship of the country, it’s simply astonishing that colleges and universities would have this kind of increases,” Mr. Callan said. “It tells you that higher education is still a seller’s market. The level of debt we’re asking people to undertake is unsustainable.”

“A lot of people think we can solve the problem with more financial aid, but I think we have to have some cost containment. For all the talk about reinventing higher education, I don’t see any results.”

With room and board, the average total cost of attendance at a public four-year college is now \$15,213, the report found. At private nonprofit colleges, which enroll about one in five college students nationally, the average total cost of attendance is now \$35,636.

Over the last 30 years, college costs have risen steadily, especially at four-year public universities, once considered the affordable route to higher education. At such universities, the last decade’s increases, adjusted for inflation, have been the steepest.

At private universities and public two-year institutions, the rate of increase has slowed over the last decade. The 4.4 percent rise in tuition at private colleges last year, for example, was smaller than in past years, when it has been about 6 percent.

In releasing the figures, the College Board, a membership organization made up of schools, colleges, universities and education organizations, put a bright face on the issue. Sandy Baum, the senior policy analyst who wrote the report, “Trends in College Pricing 2009,” said the findings were not as bad as they might have been, since in times of recession, tuition increases are often “really, really steep.”

Ms. Baum emphasized that it was important for families to understand that only about a third of students pay the published tuition, or sticker price. Most pay a lower net cost because they get some kind of assistance, whether in the form of a scholarship from the university, a federal Pell grant or state aid.

Nonetheless, Ms. Baum acknowledged that over time, the costs trends at four-year public universities have been troubling.

“From 1979 to 1989, the annual rate adjusted for inflation was 3 percent,” she said, “the next decade was 4 percent, and the most recent decade 5 percent. So the trend was exacerbated in recent years.”

Public universities have been forced to raise tuition largely because state governments, facing huge budget shortfalls, have reduced spending on higher education. But many education experts said colleges must do a better job of cutting costs.

“Colleges need to be looking for ways to permanently restructure, not just cut their budgets,” said Jane Wellman, executive director of the Delta Project on Postsecondary Costs, Productivity

and Accountability. “A perfect example is furloughs, in hopes that eventually the work force can come back. But this isn’t a one-time problem, and eventually they’ll have to bite the bullet and reduce their work force.”

About two-thirds of full-time undergraduates receive grants, according to “Trends in Student Aid 2009,” a companion College Board report by Ms. Baum that was also released Tuesday. And grant aid, especially Pell grants, has been growing.

Taking into account both grant aid and tax credits and deductions, Ms. Baum said, the situation looks far less dire.

“The really interesting thing to me,” she said, “is if you look at net prices students pay, considering the grant aid and tax benefits, students at public two-year institutions are actually paying less, in inflation-adjusted dollars. And that’s pretty significant. Even though the sticker price, adjusting for inflation, is up 20 percent in the past five years, the net price is actually lower than it was five years ago.”

But with college costs so high, borrowing is increasing as well. Although grant aid rose significantly in the 2008-9 school year, the latest year for which data are available, student borrowing — and the gap between available resources and the overall cost of attending college — continued to increase, the report said.

The borrowing has changed, though, with a significant shift away from private loans as the credit markets froze and federal loans expanded. According to the new report, total education borrowing increased 5 percent from 2007-8 to 2008-9, the report said, but private loans declined by about half last year, to about \$11 billion, while federal loans increased by about \$15 billion.

Last year, the average grant aid per student was \$5,041, with the largest amounts coming from colleges and universities and the federal government.

At public four-year colleges, the report found, two-thirds of the grant money is given as merit aid, that is, without considering the recipient’s financial need.

“It is particularly disturbing that public colleges are using such a large share of their financial aid resources for so-called merit aid in these tough times,” said Lauren Asher, president of the Institute for College Access and Success.

This year, the report found, full-time students at private, nonprofit four-year institutions — those with the most expensive tuition — are receiving about \$14,400 in grant aid and federal tax benefits, reducing their net tuition and fees to about \$11,900, from the published \$26,300.

Full-time students at public four-year colleges and universities receive an estimated average of about \$5,400 in grant aid and federal tax benefits, reducing their net tuition and fees to about \$1,600, from the published \$7,000.

And full-time students at public two-year colleges actually get an average \$3,000 in grant aid and tax benefits — enough to pay the average \$2,500 tuition and fees and still have \$500 left toward living expenses.

Deconstruct this story by answering the questions in the Deconstruction Guide

The Deconstruction Method

1. Summarize the main points and then check: Does the headline and the lead support the main point(s) of the story?

2. How close does the reporter come to opening the freezer? Is the evidence direct or “arm’s-length?”

3. Evaluate the reliability of the sources using

I’M VA/IN:

✓ **I**ndependent sources are better than self-interested sources.

✓ **M**ultiple sources are better than a single source.

✓ Sources who **V**erify are better than sources who assert: “I know” vs. “I believe”

✓ **A**uthoritative/**I**nformed sources are better than uninformed sources.

✓ **N**amed sources are better than unnamed sources

4. Does the reporter make his or her work transparent?

5. Does the reporter place the story in context?

6. Are the key questions answered?

7. Is the story fair?