

WRITING ACROSS CONTEXTS

WRTG 111 | UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST

DR. SOL NEELY

FALL 2017

News Media Survey

To get us started on our next project, a media literacy research paper, I want you to immerse yourself in a variety of news media landscapes—including traditional newspaper journalism, cable news, public media, independent journalism, and social media. Over the next several days, take time to survey and “read” media sources, and record your encounters. As you survey these media landscapes, compare and contrast your findings on what they are reporting, how they are reporting, and who owns the media company or institution.

REQUIRED

I have a small collection of required sources I want you to consult. Beyond that, I'd like to know more about the news media sources you tend to visit.

Public Media NPR	Tune into KTOO, our local public radio station, and listen for at least four hours . These four hours do not have to be consecutive, and I prefer that you tune in during any of shows aired between 4:00a-2:00pm and during 4:00p-7:00p. You have three ways to listen: (1) You can dial your radio to 104.3FM; (2) you can download the KTOO app, or (3) you can listen live on the web at https://www.ktoo.org
Democracy Now!	Democracy Now! is a remarkable force in “independent media”—“pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S.” See their “About” page for more information. Episodes typically begin with about 10 minutes of headlines. Watch at least one full episode or at least four headline sections. There are multiple ways to watch or listen to Democracy Now! (1) The program airs on KTOO at 9:00pm. (2) You can watch episodes online at https://democracynow.org . (3) It is available through podcast. (4) It is available on satellite television: satellite television (DISH network: Free Speech TV ch. 9415 and Link TV ch. 9410; DIRECTV: Free Speech TV ch. 348 and Link TV ch. 375).
Newspapers	I would like you to review some of the more prominent and long-standing newspapers—including The New York Times , Washington Post , and the Wall Street Journal . Spend at least 20 minutes survey each paper. Most likely, you will encounter the content of these papers online. Start by visiting their websites. If you encounter paywall obstacles, you can access these papers through our Egan Library.
Cable News	I hate to subject you to this, but find a television and tune into one of the cable stations such as CNN, MSNBC, or Fox News. Spend at least 30 minutes with each of the three major cable news stations noted above.
Social Media	Browse through whatever social media platforms you use and with which you access news content. What kinds of headlines are you encountering? What are their sources? How do you connect with those sources? If you are not presently engaged with social media platforms such as Facebook or Twitter, you can reach out to friends and family and ask them what they encounter.

PERSONAL NEWS SURVEY

When it comes to current events, I would also like to know where you get your news from. Do you seek out news on purpose, or do you stumble upon it accidentally? Do you commit yourself to staying informed in dynamic ways, or do you remain more disengaged from current events? What topics or issues, if any, do you follow?

SURVEY FORM

Please use the News Media Survey form located under “Class Content” at our UAS Online class portal.

DUE DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

The complete News Media Survey is due Tuesday, October 10. We will hear from you on your experience, perspectives, and insights.

NOTE: THIS PROJECT REQUIRES TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS & INDEPENDENT MOTIVATION.