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Feb. 7, 2022

EDUCATOR GUIDE KEY AND STUDENT PAGES FOR News Goggles

How does a news organization approach breaking news?

In this document you'll find:

- Teacher directions for this lesson.
- Editable student pages.
- An answer key for the student pages.

Teacher directions:

1. **Make sure each student has a copy of the [featured story](#). Students will need it as they work through the viewing guide.**
Note: Your students should read or skim the entire article first to get a general sense of what it's about before digging deeper into questions in the viewing guide.
2. **Distribute student copies of the viewing guide in this document (pages 2-5).**
3. **Conclusion:** Have students use their notes from this viewing guide to brainstorm a response to the essential lesson question. Then, discuss as a class. To extend this question further, have students develop their thoughts in several paragraphs or an essay.



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News Goggles

How does a news organization approach breaking news?

Featured Video: [“News Goggles: Candice Norwood, The 19th*.”](#)

Featured Text: [“Biden poised to nominate first Black woman to Supreme Court”](#)

(Candice Norwood and Amanda Becker, The 19th*).

Directions:

1. Read the featured text.
2. Watch the featured video, using this viewing guide to take notes about how Norwood covers breaking news.
3. Determine how a news organization approaches breaking news.



Resource Connection Tip: Complete [Practicing Quality Journalism](#) in Checkology® to learn the standards of quality journalism by playing the role of a reporter in a game-like simulation of a breaking news event.

PART A: Candice Norwood and The 19th*

What is Candice Norwood’s role at The 19th*?	
How does the newsroom’s mission and its audience shape which stories reporters pursue and how they frame those stories?	
Pause the video. Brainstorm a couple of story ideas in this column.	How would you cover these topic through a gender lens?

PART B: Breaking news reporting process

How did Norwood begin reporting on the featured text, [“Biden poised to nominate first Black woman to Supreme Court”](#)?

Norwood describes talking to expert sources as part of her pre-reporting. **Pause the video and go to the [featured text](#).**

Who are some of the expert sources in this story?

Why is their input valuable?

The pre-reporting Norwood described helped her to have a lot of this article written when news broke of Breyer’s retirement. How do you think reporting on breaking news is different for unanticipated events?

Expert source

Someone who is a specialist in a particular subject. Journalists often seek experts — who are also independent, or are impartial about the other people or organizations involved in a story — to add important details to their reporting that are missing from those provided by official and eyewitness sources.



How does The 19th* handle breaking news?

Breaking news

News coverage of an event that has just happened or is still happening. Details often change quickly as more information emerges.



PART C: Updates

What purpose do the [editor's](#) and [update](#) notes serve in the two texts mentioned in the video?

How do news organizations handle inaccuracies?

Why can mistakes happen more frequently in breaking news stories than in other types of stories?



PART D: Tips

What tips does Norwood offer to apply during breaking news events to know if information is credible?



Conclusion: How does a news organization approach breaking news?

Think about Norwood's process to guide your answer. Use evidence from all parts of this viewing guide.



Challenge: Find other news reports about Breyer's retirement and Biden's promise to nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court. Compare them with Norwood and Becker's coverage at The 19th*. How they similar? How are they different?





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PART A: Candice Norwood and The 19th*

What is Candice Norwood’s role at The 19th*?

Norwood is a breaking news reporter at The 19th*, which focuses on “the intersection of gender, politics and policy.” She covers traditional breaking news but also has more space to work on longer stories than your average breaking news reporter.

How does the newsroom’s mission and its audience shape which stories reporters pursue and how they frame those stories?

The mission is really important! When a reporter pitches a story at The 19th*, Norwood said a common editor question is, “What is the gender angle?” This doesn’t just mean finding stories about women or LGBTQ+ people. The 19th* thinks about the gender angle of news stories and about how it impacts power dynamics. For example, the site might focus on someone in a newly elected position or policies that reinforce or dismantle inequities.

Pause the video. Brainstorm a couple of story ideas in this column.

Answers will vary.

How would you cover these topic through a gender lens?

Answers will vary but should address power dynamics.

PART B: Breaking news reporting process

<p>How did Norwood begin reporting on the featured text, “Biden poised to nominate first Black woman to Supreme Court”?</p> <p>The 19th* paid attention to Biden’s campaign promise that he would nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court. In the fall of 2021, The 19th* started preparing a story in the event that Justice Breyer would retire, even though he hadn’t said anything publicly about retiring.</p>	
<p>Norwood describes talking to expert sources as part of her pre-reporting. Pause the video and go to the featured text.</p> <p>Who are some of the expert sources in this story?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kimberly Tignor, member of the She Will Rise campaign• Dr. Taneisha Means, professor of political science at Vassar College• Renee Knake Jefferson, professor at the University of Houston Law Center <p>Why is their input valuable?</p> <p>These experts offer insight into structures involved in the Supreme Court nominations, the historical context and the barriers that Black women face. The experts Norwood interviewed had done research on federal judiciary representation.</p> <p>The pre-reporting Norwood described helped her to have a lot of this article written when news broke of Breyer’s retirement. How do you think reporting on breaking news is different for unanticipated events?</p> <p>Answers will vary but may include references to deadline pressure in reaching out to sources, conducting interviews, updating stories and correcting any errors .</p>	<p>Expert source</p> <p>Someone who is a specialist in a particular subject. Journalists often seek experts — who are also independent, or are impartial about the other people or organizations involved in a story — to add important details to their reporting that are missing from those provided by official and eyewitness sources.</p> 
<p>How does The 19th* handle breaking news?</p> <p>At The 19th*, breaking news focuses on the intersection between gender, politics and policy, which means that reporters can allow news to break before determining the particular angle for their stories. In the featured text, the draft changed when Norwood worked with a colleague to add paragraphs about next steps in the nomination process and updated the top of the story to include a news conference with Biden and Breyer. (Note that this process differs for different publications.)</p>	<p>Breaking news</p> <p>News coverage of an event that has just happened or is still happening. Details often change quickly as more information emerges.</p> 

PART C: Updates

What purpose do the [editor's](#) and [update](#) notes serve in the two texts mentioned in the video?

The notes show that the article has been updated as more information and details emerge in developing stories. This is a sign of credibility in the form of transparency.

How do news organizations handle inaccuracies?

A credible news organization will correct mistakes as quickly as possible and add a correction note to call attention to the change. (Note: The language of that correction note will differ based on the publication.)

Why can mistakes happen more frequently in breaking news stories than in other types of stories?

Breaking news requires reporters to balance accuracy with speed. Reporters are human, so sometimes mistakes happen. For Norwood, it's nerve-wracking to hit the "publish" button, and she likes to take her time and do as much pre-reporting as possible so that her story is solid when news really breaks.



PART D: Tips

What tips does Norwood offer to apply during breaking news events to know if information is credible? Norwood recommended slowing down and said there is no rush to post something. She also suggested checking out the website where you saw the news, especially if the website is unfamiliar.

It's also good to look for corroboration. For example, if there's a blog with a quote from a major public figure that is really "out there," check to see whether other news organizations have reported that information.

She also recommended looking at how many sources are being cited in a particular report, and if they are unnamed or random. If you want to verify information, do you have the name and title of the person to reach out to?

She said a critical eye should exist for all publications, whether it's The New York Times or a random blog. Sometimes a fact may be wrong, or a framing may not be accurate or representative, or may even be harmful to a particular group of people. We all have biases as humans and a limited understanding of the world. Just because you see something from a mainstream news organization doesn't mean you can't be critical of it, but generally Norwood feels more confident in the approaches and standards of mainstream publications than those that she's less familiar with.



Conclusion: How does a news organization approach breaking news?

Think about Norwood's process to guide your answer. Use evidence from all parts of this viewing guide.

Answers will vary. Be sure students incorporate key ideas from various points in this viewing guide.



Challenge: Find other news reports about Breyer's retirement and Biden's promise to nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court. Compare them with Norwood and Becker's coverage at The 19th*. How they similar? How are they different?

