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Sift®



Dig Deeper

Dec. 11, 2023

EDUCATOR GUIDE KEY AND STUDENT PAGES FOR News Goggles How do we interpret news headlines?

In this document you'll find:

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

Teacher directions:

1. **Distribute student copies of the viewing guide in this document (pages 2-5).**
2. **View the featured video and work through the viewing guide together.**
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 do we interpret news headlines?

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

Directions:

1. Watch the featured video, using this viewing guide to take notes about what goes into headline writing and publication.
2. Explain how to interpret headlines.



Resource Connection Tip: Complete [“Be the Editor”](#) in Checkology® for relevant insights.

PART A: Introduction to Flora Peir and the role of an editor

Fill in the blanks.

What is Peir’s role at The 19th*?

Peir is a _____ at The 19th*. She has conversations with reporters about which stories to write, and helps them publish the articles.

How does an editor’s job compare with that of a reporter?

An _____ looks at what a _____ turns in.

A reporter _____.

An editor _____.

PART B: Headline creation

How do headlines get written?

What makes for a good headline?

Fill in the blanks.

According to Peir, a good headline will answer as many of the 5 W's (plus H) as possible:

- W _____, W _____, W _____, W _____, W _____,
H _____

"We look at what the reader needs to know, but we also need to _____."

What are some common features in news headlines?

Why is attribution important in headlines?

The 19th Explains: How Congress funds the government

The House and the Senate have to agree on spending measures to avoid a shutdown.

Amanda Becker · September 11, 2023



In recent years, extreme heat, as well as more frequent heat waves, are putting pressure on school districts across the country to adapt to the climate crisis to protect students. (GETTY IMAGES)

Education

'Sitting in a sweat box': How record heat shut down schools in the East and Midwest

As temperatures remain high further into the school year and record heat waves become more frequent, districts are grappling with aging infrastructure and a lack of air-conditioning.

THE 19th*

We're an independent, nonprofit newsroom reporting on gender, politics and policy. Read our story.



Fall Member Drive

Support the nonprofit news you trust through the critical moments that shape our democracy and our lives.

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PART C: Issues with headlines

What circumstances might compel a news organization to change or update a headline?

What happened with The New York Times headline about the Gaza hospital explosion in October 2023?

First:

Next:

Then:

What is clickbait?

What are some red flags in headlines that could call the credibility of a source into question?

→

→

→

Are there any final tips you want to remember about interpreting headlines?

Israel-Hamas War

Israeli Airstrike Hits Gaza Hospital, Killing 500, Palestinian Health Ministry Says

Israelis and Palestinians Blame Each Other for Blast at Gaza Hospital That Killed Hundreds

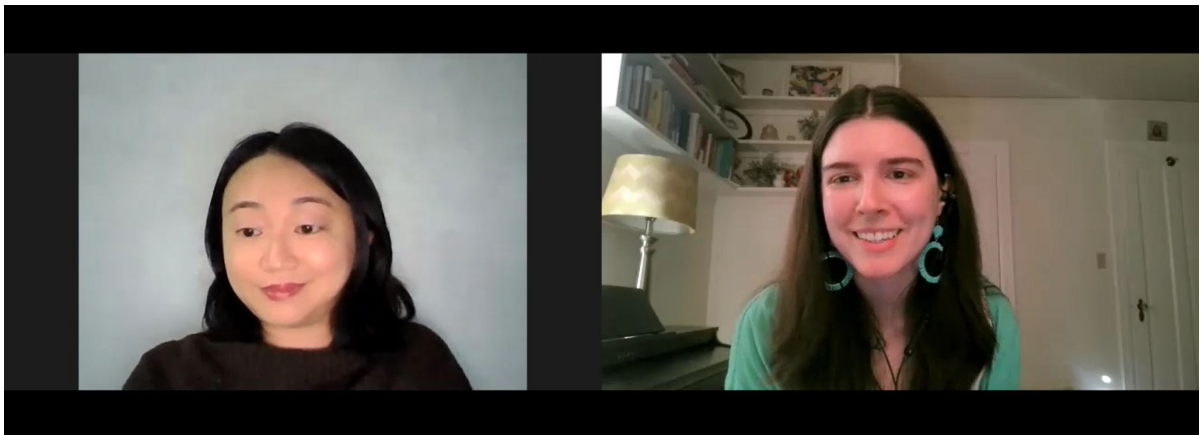




Conclusion: Explain how to interpret news headlines. Use evidence from all parts of this viewing guide to support your answer.



Challenge: Compare headlines from different newspapers using the Freedom Forum's ["Today's Front Pages."](#) Choose your top three favorite headlines for a similar story. Write why you like them. If you had to write a headline for this story, what would it be?



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PART A: Introduction to Flora Peir and the role of an editor

Fill in the blanks.

What is Peir’s role at The 19th*?

news editor

Peir is a _____ at The 19th*. She has conversations with reporters about which stories to write, and helps them publish the articles.

How does an editor’s job compare with that of a reporter?

An **editor** _____ looks at what a **reporter** _____ turns in.

A reporter **interviews people, does research and writes an article**.

An editor **checks the article for accuracy. After Peir edits a story, she will share it with another editor to check her work. She says that editors then gather with those in charge of audience and web production to put headlines, art and other parts of the story together before publishing it.**

PART B: Headline creation

How do headlines get written?

Usually, but not always, the headline writer is an editor. Editors make sure the reader gets the right perspective about what the story is about. They try to write headlines that make people want to read the full story.

What makes for a good headline?

Fill in the blanks.

According to Peir, a good headline will answer as many of the 5 W's (plus H) as possible:

- W **Who** _____, W **What** _____, W **When** _____, W **Where** _____, W **Why** _____,
H **How** _____

make the reader hungry for more

"We look at what the reader needs to know, but we also need to _____."

What are some common features in news headlines?

Headlines can serve several different purposes. The 19th* has a series called "The 19th Explains" which goes over something happening in the news or is important to a lot of people, and the headlines use the 5 W's (plus H). These are service stories.

Another type of headline is one in which a few words are in quotation marks. These are called "partial quotes" because readers can expect the full quote to appear somewhere in the story itself.

Why is attribution important in headlines?

News outlets like to be clear about who said what and where information is coming from, so people who are truly interested in an issue can go to the source themselves. Also, if something is wrong, news outlets can point to where they got the information. It shows the news organization is not just making things up.

The 19th Explains: How Congress funds the government

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In recent years, extreme heat, as well as more frequent heat waves, are putting pressure on school districts across the country to adapt to the climate crisis to protect students. (GETTY IMAGES)

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PART C: Issues with headlines

What circumstances might compel a news organization to change or update a headline?

If the situation on the ground changes, news organizations might have to reverse their headline. Updates can also be made to the story, explaining what happened or what journalists believe happened.

What happened with The New York Times headline about the Gaza hospital explosion in October 2023?

First: The New York Times attributed their initial headline to the Palestinian Health Ministry, but the information was not reliable enough for an important headline to be based on that one source.

Next: As more information became available, it became clear that responsibility for the blast was in dispute, and the headline changed to reflect that Israelis and Palestinians blamed each other for the blast.

Then: The New York Times published an editor's note explaining why the first headline ran and why it was changed. This acknowledgment is a sign of a newsroom following standards and holding themselves to a set of ethical guidelines for accuracy and transparency.

What is clickbait?

Clickbait is a story whose value is oversold by its headline. Clickbait headlines are often misleading, vague and use a breathless tone.

What are some red flags in headlines that could call the credibility of a source into question?

- Angry tone
- Superlatives
- Verbs that suggest combat

Are there any final tips you want to remember about interpreting headlines?

Answers will vary. Some options include opening a new tab and searching for information about a source if the headline seems off. Some students may also write that ideally you should never stop at the headline because headlines are limited in what they can communicate.

Israel-Hamas War

Israeli Airstrike Hits Gaza Hospital, Killing 500, Palestinian Health Ministry Says

Israelis and Palestinians Blame Each Other for Blast at Gaza Hospital That Killed Hundreds

Oct. 23, 2023

Behind the Editors' Note on Gaza Hospital Coverage

News
Literacy
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Conclusion: Explain how to interpret news headlines. Use evidence from all parts of this viewing guide to support your answer.

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



Challenge: Compare headlines from different newspapers using the Freedom Forum's ["Today's Front Pages."](#) Choose your top three favorite headlines for a similar story. Write why you like them. If you had to write a headline for this story, what would it be?

