Activity: Types of News Sources

Hands-on/active learning: In this activity students will look at different types of news articles and answer questions related to them. Activity can be done individually or as a group/pair.

# Intro

* Review [Types of News Sources](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/libraryresearch/news)
* Print a mix of opinion, news articles, feature articles, and investigative articles

# Instructions

1. Students in groups of 2-3 (or can be done individually)
2. Each group gets a sample newspaper article (include a mix of opinion, news articles, and investigative articles)
3. Analyze the article and answer questions below
4. Group discussion:
	1. Share what type of article each group had, and how they decided what type of article it was.
	2. Discuss any challenges that arose in the process.
	3. Part 3 of worksheet can either be done by students on their own or as a class discussion.

# Part 1: General Questions:

1. What type of news article is this: News article, Investigative article, or Opinion article)?
	* What helped you identify the type of article? (style, purpose, format, etc)
2. How much information did you get from the title, photo captions or callouts?
3. What are the main points in the article?
4. Does the author use evidence in the article to support what is written? If so what types of evidence? Does the evidence seem credible

# Part 2: Answer the questions related to your article type.

## News Article Questions:

1. Who is the article talking about?
2. What is the issue being reported?
3. Where is this taking place?
4. When did the news take place?

## Investigative Article Questions:

1. Who or What is the article investigating?
2. Who is doing the investigating?
3. How has the journalist found the facts in the article?
4. When did the investigation take place? How long did it take to investigate the issue?
5. Is the investigation summed up in one article, or is it a series of articles?
6. Did the investigation lead to any social change/political reform?

## Opinion Article Questions:

1. Who is the author of the article? Is the author qualified in some way to talk about the topic?
2. What is the key point being made in this article?
3. Does this article seem like it makes valid arguments?
4. What arguments would you use if you were on the opposite side of the issue?

# Part 3: What’s Next?

1. What questions does this article raise?
2. Where can I go to get answers or more information?
3. Where can I go to get the other side of the argument

Do you notice a theme in the questions? **Who, what, when, where, and why** are the main questions to ask yourself when reading a news article.

(Adapted from https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/teaching-strategies/news-article-analysis)