

Information for Assignment #1: NEWS ARTICLE

NEWS CONFERENCE: Friday, March 8, 8 a.m.

PARTICIPANT: Chandler Thornton, international news desk producer, CNN

WHAT IS REQUIRED:

- Students are required to conduct a group interview in news conference format
- Students must ask questions
- Students must be on time
- Students will use the answers from the news conference, as well as information on page 2 to write a complete news story
- Students must interview at least one other source for the story

First draft DUE no later than **12 p.m., Monday, March 18** via Blackboard. We will workshop the articles in class on Wednesday, March 20 and the final will be due by class **(8 a.m.) Friday, March 22**.

To get an A, you must:

- Have a typed, double-spaced 600-700-word article.
- Have clean, edited copy: AP style, spelling, grammar and agreement count!
- Start with a strong, news-style lede
- Back up the lede in an organized manner (inverted pyramid) that emphasizes the “news” (think of those news values and elements)
- Choose strong quotes and attribute them correctly
- Use the news conference as the primary source, but use DIRECT QUOTES from at least ***one human source*** (journalism students, journalism professors or news consumers would be some people to consider.)
- Be on time

Lt. Christopher P. Hasson, 49, was arrested on February 15 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and held without bail. Prosecutors described Hasson as a “domestic terrorist” and self-described white nationalist who studied the methods of other extremist killers. He stockpiled guns and drugs, and drew up a target list of prominent cable news journalists and Democratic politicians to be killed. He also wrote, prosecutors said, of wanting “to murder innocent civilians on a scale rarely seen in this country.” In light of the Hasson’s arrest, as well as other shootings of politicians and journalists, CNN is boosting security at its three most prolific headquarters nationwide. Contractors are installing radiation scanners, like the ones in airports. They are also updating x-ray machines. The buildings, at which these measures are being installed and updated, are CNN Center at 190 Marietta St NW in Atlanta, CNN headquarters at Time Warner Center at 10 Columbus Circle in New York City and the CNN Building at 180 1st Street NW in Washington – just down the street from Union Station. More security guards are being hired at all three buildings. Hasson is a lieutenant in the United States Coast Guard and, up until the time of his arrest, was assigned to the United States Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C., as an acquisitions officer for the National Security Cutter Acquisition Program. Law enforcement agents executed a federal search warrant at the defendant’s residence, agents found the following fifteen firearms and, conservatively, over 1,000 rounds of mixed ammunition in the basement apartment of his Silver Springs, Maryland home. A husband and father, Hasson served in the military or 28 years. Court documents said Hasson searched the web for MSNBC host Joe Scarborough, and “compiled a list of prominent Democratic Congressional leaders, activists, political organizations, and MSNBC and CNN media personalities.” Prosecutors say the list included designations they believe referred to Democratic Senators Richard Blumenthal, Chuck Schumer, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Kirsten Gillibrand and Cory Booker. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Democrats Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Maxine Waters, Ilhan Omar and Sheila Jackson were also on the list. Also on it was former Rep. Beto O’Rourke and former Hillary Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta. Other media figures on the list included Scarborough, MSNBC hosts Chris Hayes and Ari Melber, and CNN’s Don Lemon, Chris Cuomo and Van Jones. There are two types of full-body scanners at use in U.S. airports: millimeter-wave scanners and backscatter x-ray scanners. Millimeter-wave scanners use radio waves and produce no ionizing radiation. When we talk about radiation, we’re usually referring to ionizing radiation, which has the energy and other properties capable of damaging DNA and leading to cancer. In very high doses, ionizing radiation can cause burns and even kill. Backscatter x-ray scanners do, in fact, use ionizing radiation in the form of very low-dose x-rays. About 500 full-body scanners are in use at American airports. Half are millimeter-wave scanners and half are backscatter x-ray scanners. It is unclear which type will be installed in the buildings. All of the buildings are accessible to the public and host tours. Many of journalists, newspeople and TV personalities have expressed concern for their safety. Human Resources officials at CNN said that HR personnel will hold meetings with their employees to discuss personal and business safety. In August 2015, news reporter Alison Parker and photojournalist Adam Ward, employees of CBS affiliate WDBJ in Roanoke, Virginia, were fatally shot while conducting a live television interview. The gunman was Vester Lee Flanagan II, a former reporter at WDBJ. On June 14, 2017, in Alexandria, Virginia, Congressman Steve Scalise of Louisiana, as well as three others, were shot while practicing for the annual Congressional Baseball Game for Charity, scheduled for the following day by James Hodgkinson, a left-wing activist. Five people were killed in the shooting at a newspaper in Annapolis. All of the buildings installing more security measures are multi-use. The Time Warner Center in New York includes high-end residential units. It is unclear how much the upgrades will cost.