

ASSIGNMENT #2: Analyzing public documents & Story pitch

Instructions/Explanations

DUE DATE: 11:59 p.m., Monday, Nov. 6 *via BlackBoard*.

Late papers will be penalized 10 percent for the first 24 hours, 20 percent for hours 25-48. If the assignment is more than 48 hours late, it will not be accepted and receive a zero.

You will receive an email that contains a set of public documents that student journalists and/or the professor received after making a request to public officials, or otherwise collected.

Your job in this assignment is to analyze the documents and figure out what a SECOND-DAY/INVESTIGATIVE STORY is and pitch it to an editor/producer of one of the Quinnipiac student media outlets.

Use the story pitch format on pp. 44-45. This pitch is required to be three pages and must include **key details** found in the reports:

- The most important details – Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? (include the answers to this in the SCOPE and/or NEED sections)
- Answer WHY IS THIS STORY IMPORTANT (NEED section)
- Documented sources – as identified in the documents *AND* in addition to them – you would use for a story (include in the SOURCES section)
- Human sources from whom you would ask questions and get direct quotes from (i.e., eye-witnesses, experts, confessions, explanations) etc. to use in a published story (include in the SOURCES section)
- For the PRESENTATION section, I just want a single story. (No “three-part series,” etc.) But, I do want to know if this is a news story for the *Chronicle*, a broadcast piece for Q30, a web piece for either and what *art/graphics/visuals* you may need for it, as well.
- Proper grammar, spelling, punctuation and AP style.

For an assignment to earn an “A,” your evaluation of the events – as told through the documents – must be clear, orderly, concise and relevant and do the following:

- You will answer the “Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?” of your story and provide details of what your story will be.
- You will also offer up ideas for other sources -- ones not identified in the documents provided to you, perhaps, but that you would try to track down if you were a reporter. If these are public documents, link to where you will find them. If you will need to file a FOIA request for them, who do you need to send it to? (Include all that!) If you need to Google or report other information to bolster your story pitch, be sure to note from where you pulled information. (embed the URL)
- Your account will *not* include bullet points, but you will write this in full sentences for the pitch.

Disregard the FOLLOW UP section. No need for it in this.

This project is worth 20 percent of your grade (200 points).

Good luck!