

ASSIGNMENT #2: Analyzing public documents Instructions/Explanations

DUE DATE: 8 a.m., Tuesday, March 19 via BlackBoard.

Late papers will be penalized 15 percent for the first 24 hours, 15 percent for hours 25-48. If the assignment is more than two days late, it will not be accepted and receive a zero.

Each folder contains a set of public documents that student journalists and/or the professor received after making a request to public officials.

Your job in this assignment is to analyze the documents and figure out what the STORY is and pitch it to an editor/producer of one of the 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 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, confessions, explanations) etc. to use in a published story (include in the SOURCES section)
- 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.

You will answer the “Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?” and provide details.

You will also offer up ideas for other sources -- ones not identified in the documents, perhaps, but that you would try to track down if you were a reporter. Your account will not include bullet points, but you will write this in full sentences for the pitch.

For PRESENTATION, 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.

Disregard the FOLLOW UP section.

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)