

Investigative Journalism in the Movies (and Real Life!): *All the President's Men & Spotlight*

For this assignment, you are required to read articles about both the Watergate scandal that forced the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974, and the Catholic Church sex abuse scandal in Boston. (Articles found on course schedule)

After reading these articles to learn about the basis and outcomes of these scandals you must watch two movies: [All the President's Men](#) (1976) and [Spotlight](#) (2015). These films are available to borrow at the McMahon Center, Netflix and Amazon Prime (respectively) or to rent at [BEST Video, Film & Cultural Center](#) at 1842 Whitney Ave. in Hamden.

You will then write a 3- to 6-page paper (double spaced) in which you do the following:

- Identify and describe the investigative reporting techniques of each of these teams (what did they do? What public documents did they have to obtain, and how did they access them? What private documents did they have to access? How did they get them? Who did they interview and how did those interviews verify the information in the docs? – think triangulation, here),
- Describe the hurdles the teams had to jump. How did they overcome them?
- Identify and describe the ethical and/or personal dilemmas the teams faced,
- Identify and describe what you found to be impressive about both investigations. Both of these projects won Pulitzer Prizes and truly changed the course of American history. (Do you find any of the reporting techniques to be problematic, ethically or practically? What still perplexes you about the investigations?)
- Describe what you learned from watching these movies.

To get an A on this project, you must:

- Follow the directions,
- Answer the questions thoroughly and thoughtfully,
- Tie things you have learned in this course to the reporting techniques you see in the films,
- *Use proper AP style (no joke – I find this to be critically important),*
- Have a well-edited, clean paper (spelling, grammar, punctuation – GET NAMES SPELLED CORRECTLY. You have access to Google, so use it.)
- **BE ON TIME. This is due via email no later than noon, Sunday, Nov. 4.**