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**Final Paper Prompt**

**JRN 450**

**Fall 2016**

**Instructions:** This paper is worth 30 percent of your grad. It is via email to me at the address above no later than 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16. Name the document “YourLastName2.doc/.docx” – Example, if it were my paper, it would be named “yanity2.doc” or yanity2.docx.” This paper should be between 8-10 pages long. I prefer you use APA style, but I’m not a stickler so long as you CITE SOURCES and include a list of references in a consistent manner. This paper should cover the readings and discussions pertaining to the readings of Cooky et al, Grainger et al, William C. Rhodes, deMause & Cagan, Bennett and – primarily – Dave Zirin.

(NOTE: READ [THE GRADING RUBRIC](http://www.mollyyanity.com/grades--rubric.html) before you start writing. I tell you how to get an A. I can promise you will not do well on this assignment if you revert to unoriginal, SportsCenter/sports talk radio banter.)

**Topic:** For the final paper, you will examine a recent (or ongoing) stadium/arena situation and the local media’s coverage of that situation.

For example, I might choose the Hartford Yard Goats new stadium, which is being constructed now. I would describe the team ownership (who owns the team, how that person acquired his/her wealth), how the stadium is funded (who is paying for the stadium? Tax dollars from the city? Bonds? Loans? State tax dollars? The owner?) If it is a publicly funded stadium, what is the value of the stadium to the taxpayer? (What is being promised? Is/has it being/been delivered?) What politicians – if any – were/are involved? What corporations were/are involved? Was there resistance to building it? If so, by whom and why? Were there environmental issues? Were citizens displaced from their homes in order to build it? Was the league involved in any way? [*This should be LESS than half of the paper. Ideally, it would be about a third of the paper.*]

An integral part of this analysis is how the local media ***framed the situation***. I would look up all this stuff about the stadium, but I also want to know how the news and sports pages of the Hartford Courant covered it. What are the columnists saying? The editorial board? Is the tone of the articles different in the news section than it is in the sports section? [*This section would also, ideally, be about a third of the paper. It will include cited excerpts of specific articles, paraphrased articles, capture the tone through their words and yours*.]

Then, given what we have learned from reading Vande Berg & Trujillo, Cooky et al, Grainger et al, and Zirin, ***determine who the winners and losers are in this stadium game and fully support your opinion.*** [*Again, about a third of the paper*.]