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AP® Research Academic Paper

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Inside:

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☑ **Scoring Guideline**

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The Response…				
Score of 1 **Report on Existing Knowledge**	**Score of 2** **Report on Existing Knowledge with Simplistic Use of a Research Method**	**Score of 3** **Ineffectual Argument for a New Understanding**	**Score of 4** **Well-Supported, Articulate Argument Conveying a New Understanding**	**Score of 5** **Rich Analysis of a New Understanding Addressing a Gap in the Research Base**
Presents an overly broad topic of inquiry.	Presents a topic of inquiry with narrowing scope or focus, that is NOT carried through either in the method or in the overall line of reasoning.	Carries the focus or scope of a topic of inquiry through the method **AND** overall line of reasoning, even though the focus or scope might still be narrowing.	Focuses a topic of inquiry with clear and narrow parameters, which are addressed through the method and the conclusion.	Focuses a topic of inquiry with clear and narrow parameters, which are addressed through the method and the conclusion.
Situates a topic of inquiry within a single perspective derived from scholarly works **OR** through a variety of perspectives derived from mostly non-scholarly works.	Situates a topic of inquiry within a single perspective derived from scholarly works **OR** through a variety of perspectives derived from mostly non-scholarly works.	Situates a topic of inquiry within relevant scholarly works of varying perspectives, although connections to some works may be unclear.	Explicitly connects a topic of inquiry to relevant scholarly works of varying perspectives **AND** logically explains how the topic of inquiry addresses a gap.	Explicitly connects a topic of inquiry to relevant scholarly works of varying perspectives **AND** logically explains how the topic of inquiry addresses a gap.
Describes a search and report process.	Describes a nonreplicable research method **OR** provides an oversimplified description of a method, with questionable alignment to the purpose of the inquiry.	Describes a reasonably replicable research method, with questionable alignment to the purpose of the inquiry.	Logically defends the alignment of a detailed, replicable research method to the purpose of the inquiry.	Logically defends the alignment of a detailed, replicable research method to the purpose of the inquiry.
Summarizes or reports existing knowledge in the field of understanding pertaining to the topic of inquiry.	Summarizes or reports existing knowledge in the field of understanding pertaining to the topic of inquiry.	Conveys a new understanding or conclusion, with an underdeveloped line of reasoning **OR** insufficient evidence.	Supports a new understanding or conclusion through a logically organized line of reasoning **AND** sufficient evidence. The limitations and/or implications, if present, of the new understanding or conclusion are oversimplified.	Justifies a new understanding or conclusion through a logical progression of inquiry choices, sufficient evidence, explanation of the limitations of the conclusion, and an explanation of the implications to the community of practice.
Generally communicates the student's ideas, although errors in grammar, discipline-specific style, and organization distract or confuse the reader.	Generally communicates the student's ideas, although errors in grammar, discipline-specific style, and organization distract or confuse the reader.	Competently communicates the student's ideas, although there may be some errors in grammar, discipline-specific style, and organization.	Competently communicates the student's ideas, although there may be some errors in grammar, discipline-specific style, and organization.	Enhances the communication of the student's ideas through organization, use of design elements, conventions of grammar, style, mechanics, and word precision, with few to no errors.
Cites **AND/OR** attributes sources (in bibliography/ works cited and/or in-text), with multiple errors and/or an inconsistent use of a discipline-specific style.	Cites **AND/OR** attributes sources (in bibliography/ works cited and/or in-text), with multiple errors and/or an inconsistent use of a discipline-specific style.	Cites **AND** attributes sources, using a discipline-specific style (in both bibliography/works cited **AND** in-text), with few errors or inconsistencies.	Cites **AND** attributes sources, with a consistent use of an appropriate discipline-specific style (in both bibliography/works cited **AND** in-text), with few to no errors.	Cites **AND** attributes sources, with a consistent use of an appropriate discipline-specific style (in both bibliography/works cited **AND** in-text), with few to no errors.

Academic Paper

Overview

This performance task was intended to assess students' ability to conduct scholarly and responsible research and articulate an evidence-based argument that clearly communicates the conclusion, solution, or answer to their stated research question. More specifically, this performance task was intended to assess students' ability to:

- Generate a focused research question that is situated within or connected to a larger scholarly context or community;

- Explore relationships between and among multiple works representing multiple perspectives within the scholarly literature related to the topic of inquiry;

- Articulate what approach, method, or process they have chosen to use to address their research question, why they have chosen that approach to answering their question, and how they employed it;

- Develop and present their own argument, conclusion, or new understanding while acknowledging its limitations and discussing implications;

- Support their conclusion through the compilation, use, and synthesis of relevant and significant evidence generated by their research;

- Use organizational and design elements to effectively convey the paper's message;

- Consistently and accurately cite, attribute, and integrate the knowledge and work of others, while distinguishing between their voice and that of others; and

- Generate a paper in which word choice and syntax enhance communication by adhering to established conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics.

Is Impartial News Now Passé?:

A Discourse Analysis on the Difference Between *the New York Times* and *the Chicago Tribune's*

Word Choice in Reporting of the Brett Kavanaugh and Harvey Weinstein Sexual Assault

Allegations

Word Count: 5030

Introduction

Since its birth, media has played the role of both good and evil. This is particularly apparent in the discussion of violent crime, like rape. The power of media portrayed false, sensationalized information in the Duke lacrosse case, where the names of three innocent young men were dragged through the mud, falsely accused of rape for months before gaining redemption through trial. These men's names and reputations were destroyed through the perception that the media broadcasted, illustrating media's powerful influence. Yet, in other scenarios, media has stepped up to the plate, igniting landmark social justice movements through extensive and accurate coverage. One example of positive media reporting is exhibited in the #MeToo movement. The media provides a platform for survivors to stand up and report their accounts of sexual harassment, helping ignite a change that fights against sexual harassment while advocating for extensive reform.

The #MeToo movement started long before hashtags were used widely across social media platforms. In 2006, Tarana Burke, "an American social activist, coined the phrase "Me Too" on MySpace to highlight the occurrence of sexual harassment, particularly as it targeted women of color" ("Me Too: Sexual Harassment Awareness & Prevention"). Years later, on October 5, 2017, two *New York Times* investigative reporters, Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, broke the story of Harvey Weinstein and his role as a sexual assaulter in the workplace after months of interviews with actresses, Weinstein employees, and other reputable sources. Twohey and Kantor describe their shock after their publication as they "watched in astonishment as a dam wall broke" (Kantor and Twohey). Millions of survivors took to social media platforms, using the hashtag #MeToo to share their accounts of sexual harassment. Summarized by Kantor and Twohey, "journalism had helped inspire a paradigm shift" (Kantor and Twohey). The phrase

coined long ago by a single survivor was now trending on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, and the reform that would forever change the discussion surrounding sexual assault began.

Media "reliability" was in great question at the time Twohey and Kantor published their investigative report. The Weinstein report was released during "a time of accusations of "fake news," as the very notion of a national consensus seemed to be fracturing" (Kantor and Twohey). This skepticism greatly impacted the survivors who shared their stories, as many were deemed as "destroying the reputation of the wrongly accused to garner attention". Celebrities and civilians alike rushed online to share their opposition to the movement, further igniting the hashtag and allowing for criticism to take place.

Throughout history, society has placed trust in newspapers to play the role of "unbiased informant"; however, in recent years, their reliability remains in question. Dr. Erick Elejalde, a media researcher who obtained his Ph.D. in Computer Science, discusses this in his research, stating, "news consumers expect news outlets to be objective and balanced in their reports of events and opinions. However, there is a growing body of evidence of bias in the media caused by underlying political and socio-economic viewpoints" (Elejalde). In the scope of the #MeToo movement, media bias plays a vital role in this movement, as "40% of reported assaults garner attention from news media outlets" (Evans). However, as depicted in the coverage of many other landmark social movements, reporting on the #MeToo movement is not always accurate and often includes bias, even from the newspapers that readers deem "reliable" and turn to for precise coverage. University of Michigan graduate William Gamson's study on media bias in mainstream publications, discovered media "generally operate[s] in the ways that promote apathy, cynicism, and quiescence, rather than active citizenship and participation" (Gamson). In

other words, many newspapers have turned a blind eye to their responsibility to provide unbiased coverage and instead indulged in reporting their views and affiliations.

Additionally, a study composed by Stuart Vyse, an American psychologist and award-winning author, found that political ideologies are often reflected in media reporting. In his comprehensive review of a variety of mainstream media outlets, he discovered, "the media landscape is filled with politically biased information that spans a wide range of viewpoints…" (Vyse). As for how these attitudes reveal themselves, "these differences are reflected in both explicit and implicit attitudes and are related to core personality dimensions" (Vyse).

The existing body of research on this subject analyzes a variety of newspapers for overall bias in various topics. However, there are very few studies composed on bias in a specific case from a particular news outlet. Furthermore, there is a lack of research composed on the #MeToo movement, hence the selection of this subject. Regardless of one's stance on media bias, there is no doubt as to whether or not it exists, hence why research in this field would be beneficial. Specifically, to remedy the lack of research on media bias in reporting of a specific topic, it would be advantageous to research the media bias in reporting of particular landmark cases throughout the #MeToo movement from a given newspaper.

Literature Review

To grasp a firm understanding of the media's role in reporting on sexual assault cases, it is vital to examine existing literature on the topic as well as definitions of key terms repeated throughout the topic. As for defining key terms, the titles "sexual harassment", "sexual assault", and "rape" will be referred to throughout my research. To identify these terms and understand their meanings, I turned to reliable sources. Coreen Farris, who works as a behavioral scientist

for the nonprofit RAND Corporation, composed research measuring sexual harassment and assault in the military in which she includes a litany of definitions regarding sexual assault. As defined by the U.S. National Health and Social Life Survey, sexual harassment is "sexual advances, propositions, or unwanted sexual discussions from co-workers or supervisors" (Farris). In her research, Farris defines the term "rape" in terms of "Rape (completed or attempted): includes both psychological coercion as well as physical force. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s)", as defined by National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) (Farris). The paper also includes the definition of sexual assault from NCVS as, "Sexual Assault (completed or attempted): attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between the victim and the offender. May or may not involve force and things such as grabbing and fondling. Includes verbal threats" (Farris). For this research, when these three terms are used, these are the corresponding definitions I infer. Hereafter in my study, all "victims" will be referred to as "survivors" to protect their integrity.

When discussing the #MeToo movement, it is essential to comprehend if and when survivors report their cases of sexual assault, rape, or sexual harassment, and what inhibits them from reporting these cases. In the article "When Do Victims Report?" published in Oxford Journals University Press, researcher Linda Williams discusses the subject of when survivors report their accounts. Williams reports that since 1970, "social scientists have investigated a number of possible reasons why women don't report rape, ranging from the fears, beliefs, and characteristics of the women themselves, to the nature of the relationship between the victim and the rapist, and the characteristic of the particular rape" (Williams). Throughout her thorough investigation of "246 cases of raped women," Williams discovered there is a multitude of reasons

that survivors hesitate to report. These reasons range from fear of rejection from family

members, to blame projected on themselves for the rape.

Additionally, Williams found that in many cases, "[survivors] blame themselves for being

raped, or fear they will be blamed by family, friends, and especially police". Furthermore, a

survivor's race factors into the equation of when survivors report. In her research, Williams

includes a study that discovered, "black, Hispanic, and Asian women in the United States were

less likely to report a hypothetical rape than white women" (Williams). Research like Williams'

illustrates the variety of obstacles survivors face when determining if they should report their

experience with sexual assault. This research also showcases the courage it took for survivors to

take to social media platforms and share their stories with the #MeToo hashtag.

Media has played a vital role in the #MeToo movement. Without social media, in

particular, the hashtag would not have taken off, and the movement may not even exist.

However, there is significant controversy surrounding news sources reporting of the movement

and specific cases. A study fashioned by Alyssa Evans titled "#MeToo: A Study on Sexual

Assault as Reported in *the New York Times*" discovered "*the New York Times'* coverage of the

#MeToo movement focuses on white individuals more than any other racial group" (Evans). In

her research, Evans tallied up bias in terms of race, among other factors, throughout fifteen

articles. Evans found that "Caucasian sources comprised 70.3% of the total group, easily the

most often used in news stories. Other representation included African American coverage at

7.1% …" (Evans). These statistics demonstrate a clear bias in *the New York Times'* reporting of

the #MeToo movement, which pertains to my research as I am also analyzing this newspaper for

inherent bias. Evans' study indicates that even in major newspapers, bias prevails in the reporting

of the #MeToo movement. This piece of literature, in particular, ignited me to formulate my

research, analyzing two publications picked based on their political affiliation.

As for analyzing media bias, I chose to look at language usage and word choice in

articles reporting certain cases that occurred throughout the #MeToo movement. There are

thousands of algorithms and outlines for how to analyze media for bias, and for my research, I

received guidance from a site created by the University of Michigan. The website titled, "News

Bias Explored", "demonstrates how the media is influenced, and how these influences manifest

themselves in the news" ("News Bias Explored"). The site concludes that news bias takes place

in four categories: Word Choice, Omissions, Limiting Debate, and Story Framing. In terms of

word choice, the site claims, "words are very precise building blocks that form the basis for all

communicated ideas. They can hold truths or lies but are always the products of expression". In

addition to word choice, the omission of certain words can impact a reader's perception of an

issue.

News Bias Explored states, "omission occurs when important information is not reported

or is reported incompletely. When important news is omitted, we get a skewed or biased

perspective". In my discourse analysis, I compared similar stories from two different

newspapers, so the presence of critical word omissions was easier to recognize. News Bias

Explored also cites "Limiting Debate" as a key sign of news bias, defining this in terms of "the

media, wittingly or unwittingly act as debate limiting agents. They accept the official position

without adequately scrutinizing the assertions of those officials". Limiting Debate could occur

specifically in reporting the #MeToo movement if a news source fails to address both sides of the

story or limits the inclusion of updated details.

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Lastly, the site states that framing also indicates news bias. The authors claim, "news frames guide journalists in deciding which details of a story to select and emphasize and which to leave out or de-emphasize" ("News Bias Explored"). The concept of framing is also explored in Vienna researcher Jörg Matthes' research on media bias. In terms of how to analyze the idea of framing, Matthes states, "researchers analyze frames used to identify biases shown in communication, focusing on presented images, stereotypes, metaphors, actors, and messages" (Matthes). In terms of the effects of framing, media researcher Rojecki Entman concludes, "by emphasizing a perceived reality, frames influence media consumers' understanding of circumstances, how the problems came to be, possible effects, and how the problems may be resolved" (Entman). The University of Michigan site, in conjunction with the existing research on the effects of framing, greatly assisted my discourse analysis, as it provided a framework to properly analyze the chosen news sources.

Since this research focuses on two newspapers rated with different political affiliations, I read a myriad of literature discussing how political affiliation affects reporting. In the article "Public Perceptions of Media Bias: A Meta-Analysis of American Media Outlets During the 2012 Presidential Election", author Daniel Quackenbush defines the term "media bias" as "political bias in journalistic reporting, in programming selection, or otherwise in mass communications media" (Quackenbush). I selected this definition to integrate in my research when referring to media bias in all aspects. Additionally, it is essential to discuss the site AllSides in my literature review, as it is a substantial component of my research. AllSides is a media bias chart that classifies newspapers and other reporting style websites as either left-leaning, center, or right-leaning in terms of political affiliation. AllSides claims, "our balanced news coverage, media bias ratings, civil dialogue opportunities, and technology platform are

available for everyone and can be integrated by schools, nonprofits, media companies, and more"

("Balanced News"). For my research, AllSides will defend my classifications of the political

affiliations of *the New York Times* and *the Chicago Tribune* while providing me with detailed

statistical analysis of the exact amount of bias prevalent throughout these news sources.

Seeing that the #MeToo movement is a relatively recent event, there is little pre-existing

research done on the topic and its implications in society. The only reputable research I was able

to locate, composed by author Alyssa Evans, analyzed one newspaper and its coverage

comprehensively. This study's methods prompted me to choose newspapers as my form of

discourse to analyze due to the success Evans had in her study. This study assesses the need for

researching bias prevalent in two similar caliber newspapers with different political affiliations to

determine if this affects reporting of the events studied. Additionally, it provides a framework for

future research, as it is one of the first to investigate reporting of the #MeToo movement, a

catalyst event in today's society. After reading an extensive amount of literature regarding this

topic, I finalized my research question to state: "Is there a difference in word choice between *the*

Chicago Tribune and *the New York Times* in reports on Harvey Weinstein and Brett Kavanaugh's

assault allegations?". This research fulfills the need for a study done on a specific case of media

bias from two particular sources.

Hypothesis

I hypothesized that the left-leaning newspaper, *the New York Times*, will provide a more

survivor-focused, fact-based report of the landmark #MeToo cases I am analyzing. Additionally,

I predicted that the left-leaning paper would feature a less-biased description of the Kavanaugh

and Weinstein cases, including perspectives from both sides. I hypothesized that the "center"

newspaper, *the Chicago Tribune*, might include more bias and less support for survivors, in the cases of those who spoke up about their assaults. I also predicted that the "center" newspaper would sensationalize certain #MeToo events, which might occur throughout the analysis of the chosen articles. A careful examination of the above literature, as well as research composed by experts who studied the selected newspapers, led me to this hypothesis.

Methodology

To test my hypothesis, discourse analysis was performed using qualitative reasoning. This line of reasoning was chosen due to the scope of research. Discourse analysis is best done when qualitative reasoning is utilized, and the majority of experts in the field of discourse agree. As defined by discourse expert James Gee, discourse ("big D") is "the combination of language with other social practices (behavior, values, ways of thinking, clothes, food, customs, perspectives) within a specific group". To summarize, big "D" discourse reaches beyond the words on the page and looks at social construct during analysis, which I do in my research. To perform my discourse analysis, I turned to Gee's published guide. While some studies I analyzed researched bias in a single newspaper's reporting on the #MeToo movement, this study aims to view a variety of articles published on two cases in two separate papers, *the Chicago Tribune* and *the New York Times*. These newspapers were selected due to their high caliber status established by the site AllSides. I looked to this site to properly "rate" the newspapers as "left-leaning" and "centered", thus developing an ideology that will further be incorporated when analyzing the papers for inherent bias on the basis of political ideologies. After the articles were selected, they were read in great detail multiple times and analyzed for bias and accuracy of reporting using the University of Michigan's Media Bias Guide along with methods used by

Alyssa Evans, who composed a similar study. In analysis, I focused on qualitative aspects such as word choice, diction, reader's perception, and overall tone.

Newspaper Article Selection

Rather than use a computer-generated system or randomly selecting articles, I began with reading the top five articles with the most "hits" on *the New York Times* and *the Chicago Tribune's* websites on Kavanaugh and Weinstein. This method is similar to the one used by researcher Alyssa Evans in her #MeToo discourse analysis. Evans selected articles with the most hits from *the New York Times* and analyzed them for bias on the basis of race to successfully reach a conclusion. If I felt articles were not at a comparable degree, I continued down the line of articles with the most hits until I felt confident that my selected articles were equal in both length and coverage. I aimed to compare an equal amount of articles discussing Harvey Weinstein as those reporting on Brett Kavanaugh from each newspaper to draw precise findings.

Eventually, I selected four articles, one reporting on Weinstein and one on Kavanaugh from each newspaper. For the chosen articles on Harvey Weinstein, I chose an article titled "Harvey Weinstein Paid Off Sexual Harassment Accusers for Decades" from *the New York Times* and one titled "Harvey Weinstein Paid $1M to Accuser After Case Died: Report" from *the Chicago Tribune*. These articles both discuss similar events regarding the same subject, making it acceptable to analyze and compare the two. Additionally, the stories were published around the same time and are of comparable length.

For the Kavanaugh articles, I selected the article "Show How You Feel, Kavanaugh Was Told, and a Nomination Was Saved" from *the New York Times* and "Citing his 'temperament,' American Bar Association will re-evaluate Brett Kavanaugh's High Rating" from *the Chicago Tribune*. These similar summaries were published on the same day after the results of

Kavanaugh's hearing were released. Both of these articles are comparable due to their length and coverage, providing a basis for comparison.

Language Analysis

After selecting two articles from each newspaper, one reporting on Weinstein and one on Kavanaugh, I read and annotated each article multiple times, paying close attention to word choice, tone, diction, syntax, and other literary elements. This process proved crucial to gaining a more detailed understanding of the findings. The inferences I made were primarily drawn from the University of Michigan's media bias site using their guide on how to infer if a news article contains biased qualities. This method mirrors the one used by researcher Alyssa Evans who successively discovered that *the New York Times* is less inclusive of women of color in reports on the #MeToo movement. By using this method, I was able to conduct a more in-depth approach, which allows for closer analysis and the ability to analyze each aspect of media bias rather than bias on a synoptic scale that might be misleading.

Findings

Analysis Overview

This study's results differ from other scopes of research due to the fact that in the field of discourse analysis, there is no single framework or guide established to perform analysis. Rather, a qualitative line of reasoning is suggested by the majority of experts in the field, thus allowing for a broader structure to be established by the researcher depending on the area of inquiry researched. Therefore, I had to establish my own outline on how to compose this research. After reading guides on discourse and specifically the University of Michigan's guide on how to detect media bias, I decided to analyze the articles' word choice, tone, underlying meanings in the form

of reflected political ideologies, and the overall intentions of each article to reach a conclusion. This method is reflected throughout my findings.

Brett Kavanaugh-Specific Article Analysis:

Word Choice

   *New York Times***: "Show How You Feel, Kavanaugh Was Told, and a Nomination Was Saved"**

   Word choice is arguably the most important aspect to analyze when detecting media bias, as alluded to earlier in discussion of the University of Michigan's guide to recognizing media bias. When describing the Kavanaugh trial, the article implements direct quotes from the trial, rather than paraphrasing. Specifically, *the New York Times* quotes President Trump's stance on the trial and Kavanaugh's behavior, "'these issues are very controversial. We had numerous conversations about it through the course of time, but he hung in there'" (Baker and Fandos). However, *the New York Times* still manages to let its left-leaning opinion come through via its word choice. In the Kavanaugh article, the newspaper refers to Kavanaugh's behavior in court as "his fire-and-fury performance", expressing dismay for his actions (Baker and Fandos). *The New York Times'* word choice remained similarly neutral in both articles I analyzed. In discussion of both cases, the use of direct quotations appears throughout both articles, building the Ethos of the publisher, *the New York Times*.

In terms of word choice and diction, *the New York Times* supports its left-leaning ideology established by AllSides while remaining relatively unbiased in its reporting through the use of direct quotations and acknowledgment of multiple facets in the cases reported.

***Chicago Tribune*: "Citing his 'temperament,' American Bar Association will re-evaluate Brett Kavanaugh's High Rating"**

In *the Chicago Tribune's* article discussing Kavanaugh's future after allegations, the use of direct quotations come from a single source, the American Bar Association. One quote states, "the ABA says judges should have "compassion, decisiveness, open-mindedness, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias and commitment to equal justice under the law" (Horton). By only including one perspective in the report, this article veers on the side of "story framing", indicating possible bias in reporting.

The Chicago Tribune's political ideologies are also reflected through word choice throughout both articles. When discussing Kavanaugh's Bar rating, *the Chicago Tribune* referred to it as, "an achievement that Senate Republicans have been eager to note" (Horton). *The Chicago Tribune* does not acknowledge multiple political perspectives on Kavanaugh's rating, further solidifying its "centered" label in terms of political ideology.

Harvey Weinstein-Specific Article Analysis

***New York Times*: "Harvey Weinstein Paid Off Sexual Harassment Accusers for Decades"**

This article discussing Weinstein also employs the use of direct quotations, this time from the accused himself attempting an apology, "I appreciate the way I've behaved with colleagues in the past has caused a lot of pain, and I sincerely apologize for it. Though I'm trying to do better, I know I have a long way to go" (Kantor and Twohey). In this article, *the New York Times* remarks on his public behavior after the allegations, revealing an opinion, "in public, he presents himself as a liberal lion, a champion of women and a winner of not just artistic but humanitarian awards", remarking on the irony of his behavior after the accusations made against him (Kantor

and Twohey). The use of direct quotations from both sides indicates that in the reporting of these

cases in these articles, *the New York Times* is not trying to "story frame", one of the top

indicators for media bias.

Chicago Tribune: "Harvey Weinstein Paid $1M to Accuser After Case Died: Report"

In discussion of Weinstein, the Tribune alludes to *the New York Times'* article by Kantor

and Twohey as an "expose" and displays a negative attitude regarding the labeled "expose" and

the implications the article had for Weinstein "an expose of sexual harassment allegations against

Harvey Weinstein, leading to his firing from the company he co-founded and his expulsion from

the organization that bestows the Academy Awards" ("Harvey Weinstein Paid"). Additionally,

the article refers to the survivors who came forward to reveal their experiences with Weinstein,

whether it be in the form of assault, rape, or harassment, as "tales". The Tribune states, "more

than 100 women have come forward to tell similar tales of harassment or assault" ("Harvey

Weinstein Paid"). The choice of words, specifically "tales" and "expose", both hold very

negative connotations, contributing to the overall meaning of the article. This word choice

indicates bias in reporting through "story framing" and further supports *the Chicago Tribune's*

more "conservative" rating.

Synthesized Findings on Kavanaugh and Weinstein

Tone

The tone of a passage is typically inferred through the use of word choice and diction, as

it is through this medium that tone is established. *The New York Times'* tone is best described as

both supportive and informative in both articles. In the Kavanaugh article, the tone reflects a

more informative stance as all aspects of the case are reported on. Additionally, the chosen

diction is more "neutral", and there are very few words that suggest either support or negative

feelings for Kavanaugh. Rather, this neutral, informative tone is established through the use of

multiple direct quotations and a brief analysis of each quote. The Weinstein article has a more

supportive tone when references are made to survivors. Survivors are depicted in a more positive

light where statements regarding the Weinstein's assaults are not "alleged", but simply accepted

statements regarding assault. The article also further builds on the supportive tone, discussing

how this discussion is far overdue, "women have been talking about Harvey amongst ourselves

for a long time, and it's simply beyond time to have the conversation publicly" (Kantor and

Twohey). The acknowledgment of the issue further strengthens the supportive tone that prevails

throughout *the New York Times'* articles on Kavanaugh and Weinstein's assaults.

Underlying Meanings and Political Ideologies

        Through tone and word choice, underlying meanings, specifically underlying political

ideologies, were revealed in both newspapers. Specifically, the supportive tone towards survivors

displayed by *the New York Times* aligns with their "left-leaning" label, as this political alignment

is generally supportive of survivors who have come forward with their #MeToo stories.

Furthermore, *the Chicago Tribune* leans slightly more right on the political spectrum, although

AllSides labels the newspaper as "centered". The articles conveyed more support for the alleged

assaulters and focused more on the implications for the accused rather than how those who came

forward with their stories were impacted. This is reminiscent of a majority of conservatives,

many of whom have vehemently defended Kavanaugh and Weinstein and reprimanded survivors

for coming forward, an attitude that is discussed in my literature review with the book *She Said*.

These are overall attitudes portrayed by a large majority of these political parties; therefore, this is a broad conclusion in terms of political ideology and not meant to be a "sweeping generalization". However, when making remarks about certain attitudes and their correlations to a party, some generalizations are often necessary.

Overall Intention

Through analysis of word choice, tone, and underlying messages displayed throughout all four articles, the overall intention of each newspaper in terms of the published articles can be inferred. Neither newspaper had an overwhelming bias that inhibited a reader's ability to grasp an understanding of the article's intention. However, *the Chicago Tribune* did contain more bias, as it included some elements of story framing, which often indicates preference. Furthermore, it can be inferred that *the New York Times* aims to provide an extensively detailed report in each article from varying perspectives, as depicted through the use of direct quotations from multiple perspectives. Generally, it can be claimed that both newspapers have the intention of providing some form of information regarding these cases to their readers, whether that information is presented in the most unbiased demeanor or not.

Limitations

Before transitioning to discussion regarding conclusions and future implications of my research, it is important to note some limitations present in my study. The most significant limitation in my study was lack of time. Due to time constraint, I only had the ability to analyze four articles to ensure I was performing a thorough enough analysis. Therefore, I am only able to make conclusions regarding these four articles. Ideally, I would have analyzed at least twenty articles, and included other #MeToo cases to gain a deeper understanding of the implications

reporting has on the movement. However, this research has opened the door to a myriad of other studies regarding reporting in the #MeToo movement, and can be used as a guide for future researchers looking to explore the topic. Acknowledging that there is only one other published study on the topic of reporting in the #MeToo Movement, I would consider this research a success to initiating the conversation on reporting's effect on this particular movement.

Conclusions

The results of this study suggest that my hypothesis was partially correct. *The New York Times* does hold true to its "left-leaning" label as it provides a supportive stance for survivors who came forth with their stories. Additionally, it proves to be "fair" in reporting, including very little bias. However, my hypothesis differs in terms of *the Chicago Tribune*. This newspaper's use of tone and diction in the articles analyzed depict a "right-leaning" ideology rather than the "centered" label. Additionally, specific word choice and lack of inclusion of crucial details suggest room for some bias. This research was the first done analyzing reporting on specific #MeToo cases and successfully discovered that underlying political ideologies are often reflected in reporting while there is a difference in word choice between the two newspapers. I suggest future researchers continue this study in terms of structure and scope, but with more articles and the addition of analyzing reporting of other platform cases throughout the #MeToo movement. Additionally, other newspapers can be analyzed for their reporting on #MeToo cases to gain an even broader understanding of the impact reporting has in this movement. Although some limitations occurred, this research still prevailed and ultimately resulted in findings, while opening the door to a new area of inquiry that others can continue to produce more outcomes.

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Works Cited

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Academic Paper

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Sample: F
Score: 3

Is Impartial News Now Passé?: A Discourse Analysis on the Difference Between the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune's Word Choice in Reporting of the Brett Kavanaugh and Harvey Weinstein Sexual Assault Allegations

This paper earned a score of 3 because there is a narrowing topic presented on page 4. The research question is identified on page 4 and is restated on page 9, specifically "is there a difference in word choice between the Chicago Tribune and The New York Times in reports on Harvey Weinstein and Brett Kavanaugh's assault allegations?" The paper situates the topic of inquiry within several scholarly works on page 9. The method is introduced on page 7 and is reasonably replicable, providing information on case selection. The paper provides some information on language analysis (page 12), but more details are needed to clearly understand the criteria for analysis.

The paper didn't earn a score of 2 because there is a narrow focus of inquiry and because of the presence of a reasonably replicable method.

The paper didn't earn a score of 4. While there is a new understanding presented on page 16, paragraph 2, the use of only four newspaper articles from two newspapers provides insufficient evidence to justify the new understanding.