

Essential Questions

Be prepared to discuss the following questions:

1. Define “objectivity.” Be prepared to discuss how easy or difficult it is to achieve.
2. In terms of journalistic ethics, what might constitute a conflict of interest?
3. What is the difference between accuracy and truth?
4. What is the difference between opinion and interpretation?

End of Chapter Quiz

1. According to the author, achieving absolute objectivity is impossible. Explain why he believes that.
2. How does a reporter distinguish between facts, fiction, fantasy and hoaxes without losing credibility or objectivity?
3. Which statement is NOT TRUE?
 - A. Reporters may cherry-pick facts and use them out of context to advance a specific agenda.
 - B. The process of selecting sources and then deciding which quotes from them to use is mostly objective. Reporters have little latitude in this decision-making process.
 - C. To protect their objectivity and credibility, reporters must maintain strict separation between news, features and opinion.
 - D. All of the above.
4. Be prepared to discuss the following statement: “Objectivity demands more than a verbatim regurgitation of words spoken.”
5. What is the difference between a conflict and a complication?
6. Explain the difference between an traditional news approach and an interpretive feature approach.
7. Which statement is NOT TRUE?
 - A. Mindless chit-chat is unacceptable under any circumstance.
 - B. Professional reporters are often allowed to draw their own conclusions based on their knowledgeable observations.
 - C. Analysis is just another form of editorial comment.
 - D. In a misguided attempt to be objective, some reporters have passed along information that is technically accurate but not entirely true.