



Discourse Analysis: Sourcing & Quotations

A How-To Guide by
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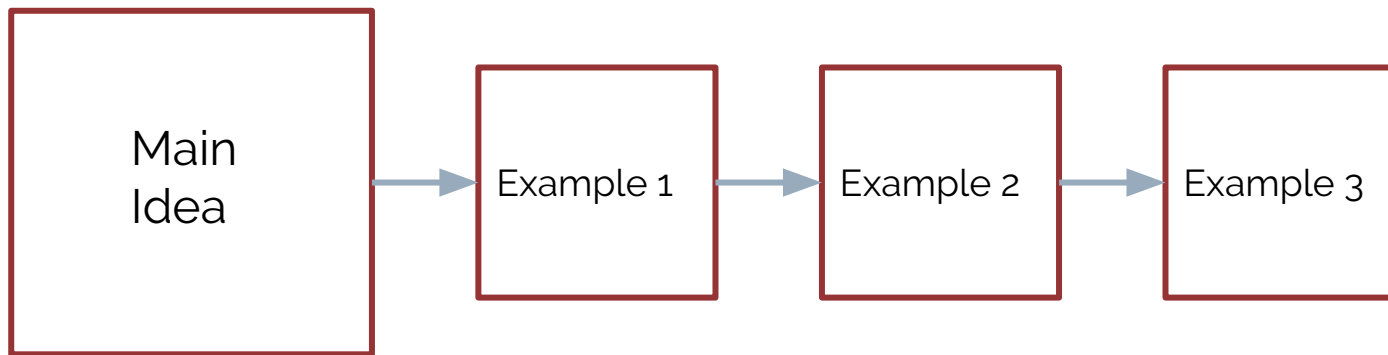
A Little Introduction



Welcome to our presentation on sourcing and quotations in discourse analysis! This presentation was created by Emily and Brigett as the final for Professor Shapiro's LNGT: 0206 - Language in News Media class in spring of 2018. The purpose of this presentation is to summarize what we have learned in class about **how to find meaning by analyzing the sources mentioned in a news article** and **the way that the information from the sources is presented** (such as in quotes).

The Layout

In this presentation, we first introduce the main idea (i.e. sourcing or quotations). We then provide three examples from different news articles and explain how we analyzed these examples. At the end of the presentation, there is a link to an article for you to practice analyzing sources and quotes. On the final slide, we provide our own analysis of the linked article, so that you can compare your own work against ours.

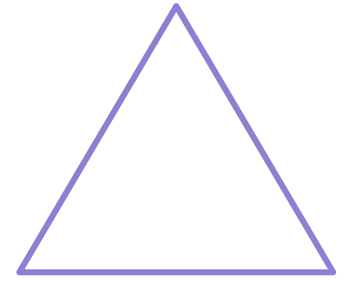


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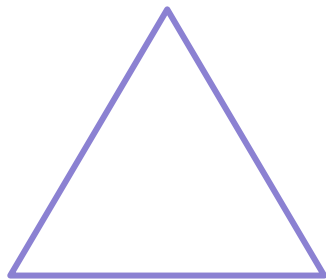
What is sourcing?

Sourcing is...

where the journalist gets information or input for an article.



Sourcing can include interviews of civilians, statistics from datasets, or statements from organizations such as local police forces, NGOs, or government agencies.



When looking at how a journalist uses sources in an article, consider the following questions:

- ▷ Is the source an expert in their field?
- ▷ Is the source anonymous?
- ▷ What kind of information does the source provide?

Sourcing: Example 1

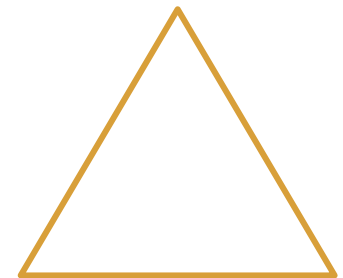
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/08/us/california-heroin-opioid.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fus&action=click&contentCollection=us®ion=rank&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=5&pgtype=sectionfront>

How We Analyzed The Source:

Published on May 8, 2018, by the New York Times, this article is about opioid addiction in Eureka, California. Here is an excerpt from the article that introduces the first source:

“I've lost so many people to this,” said Stacy Cobine, 46, who has battled her own chaotic drug use and been chronically homeless.

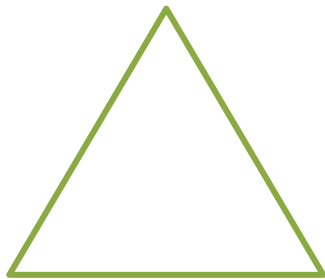
- ▷ The fact that the first source in this article is someone who was affected by opioid usage hints to reader that this article will be an intimate, engaging piece of journalism as opposed to a discussion of opioid usage among doctors or epidemiologists.



Sourcing: Example 2

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/05/09/american-prisoners-held-in-north-korea-on-their-way-home-after-pompeo-visit-trump-says.html>

This article, published on May 9, 2018, by Fox News, is about the American prisoners on their way home after being released by North Korea.



How We Analyzed The Sources:

- ▷ The first source mentioned in this article is a tweet posted by Donald Trump. The other sources in this article (in order of appearance) are Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, and one of the rescued American's family. The amount of government-related sources and the placement of the one non-government affiliated source as the end emphasize that this article is focused more on the White House's account of events than anything else.

Sourcing: Example 3

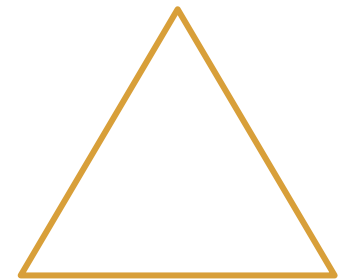
<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-superfund-orange-county-20180509-story.html>

How We Analyzed The Source:

Published on May 9, 2018, by the LA Times, this article is about questions of political favoritism over Scott Pruitt's (EPA chief) decision to prioritize groundwater cleanup in Orange County using the federal Superfund program.

Though the Orange County site may warrant federal attention, its expedited selection is unusual, "procedurally fishy" and "looks like a process shortcut that sent this request to the top of the list," said Sean Hecht, an environmental law professor at UCLA.

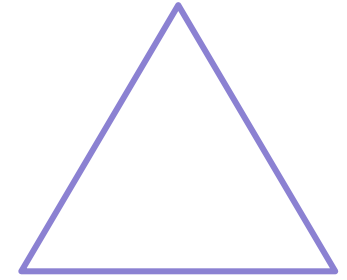
- ▶ Scott Pruitt and the EPA are the first sources mentioned in this article, followed by a UCLA environmental law professor's judgement of the expedited selection. The fact that a university professor is sourced strengthens the credibility and value of the news story. His view can be agreed upon as authoritative and independent, which plays an important role in the article, given that it reports specifically on the questioning of the EPA's decision.



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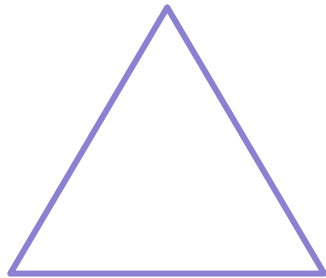
How do journalists use
quotes?

Quotes are used in specific ways...



Journalists choose how they want to relay information provided to them in their articles

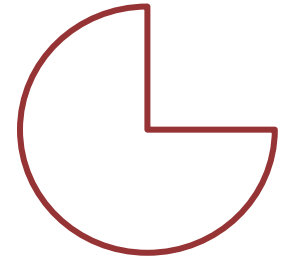
Two main options: direct speech (information from source is quoted verbatim) or reported speech (journalist paraphrases the gist of what the source said)



When examining direct and reported speech, you should consider:

- ▷ Is the information relayed as a direct quote or as a paraphrase?
- ▷ Are sources from all relevant parties quoted in the same manner, or is some of the information reported as direct speech while other information is not?
- ▷ Does the journalist mimic language used from any of the sources?

Quoting: Example 1



<https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/05/us/dayanna-volitich-white-nationalist-florida-school-podcast-trnd/index.html>

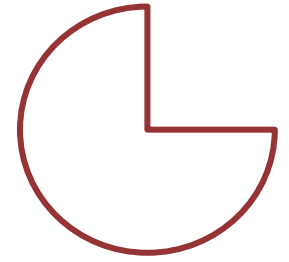
This article was published on CNN on March 6, 2018. The topic of this article is Dayanna Volitich, a Florida teacher who was accused of leading a double life by running a white supremacist podcast. Here is an excerpt from the article:

How We Analyzed The Sources:

- ▷ In this excerpt, direct quotes combined with paraphrasing are used to subtly cast doubt on Volitich's claims. (Imagine if a person said this aloud, using their fingers to make the air quotes.)
- ▷ By taking phrases of a source's quotes out of context (i.e. out of the sentence that the source said verbatim), there is more room for the journalist to insert their own voice into the narrative. For instance, it is unlikely that Volitich herself wanted to cast doubt on the fact that her podcast was supposed to be for political satire and exaggeration, but the author clearly scoffs at these claims.

In a statement through her attorney, Volitich confirmed that she was the one speaking as Dalichov on the podcast, but claimed her comments were "political satire and exaggeration" and the persona was a "hobby."

Quoting: Example 2



<https://www.refinery29.com/2018/01/189144/larry-nassar-survivors-interview-abc-news-2020>

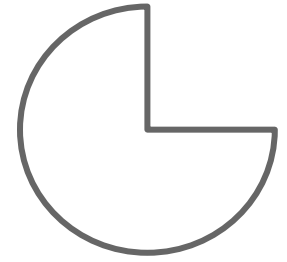
This article was published by Refinery29 on January 27, 2018. The article focuses on the mixed emotions of survivors of sexual abuse by USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar after his sentencing. Here is an excerpt from the article:

How We Analyzed The Sources:

- ▷ In this excerpt, Kyle Stephens is purposefully directly quoted because- as the last sentence points out- her words have turned into a “rallying cry” that has appeared in many articles and highlight videos.
- ▷ Direct quotes add a voice to stories, contribute to narrative potential, and can be more involving than other quotes (like Kyle Stephen's rallying cry, which spread as part of the #Metoo movement.)

Many of them aired their pain and anger at Nassar's trial as they read victim impact statements. “Little girls don't stay little forever, they grow into strong women that return to destroy your world,” said Kyle Stephens; her words have since become a rallying cry for other women.

Quoting: Example 3



<https://nypost.com/2018/05/14/mobsters-will-lose-core-business-thanks-to-legal-sports-betting-experts/>

Published on May 14, 2018, this article by the New York Post discusses how a recent Supreme Court ruling on sports betting will affect the American Mafia. Here is the quote from a former federal prosecutor that ends the article:

"I wouldn't fully count them out, because they are resilient, but it is definitely going to be a blow," he said.

How We Analyzed The Sources:

- ▷ By ending the article with this quote from a legal expert, the article strongly suggests that the American Mafia will suffer heavily because of the ruling. The author's choice to directly quote the prosecutor adds to the validity of the statement made; had the author paraphrased the prosecutor instead, the statement may appear less factual and would most likely have less strong wording (e.g. the word "definitely" would probably be omitted in a paraphrase).

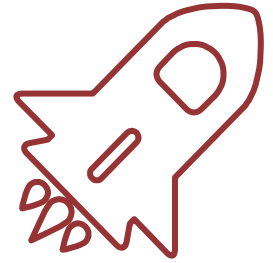


Your Turn!

Follow the link below to read an article by *The Washington Post* (published Aug. 14, 2017) about the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, VA. After analyzing the article yourself, go to the next slide to see our analysis for comparison.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/local/charlottesville-timeline/?utm_term=.e4e0063281a6

Our Analysis



- ▶ The first source mentioned in Richard Spencer, a known figure-head of the far right. The journalist's decision to directly quote Spencer at the beginning of the article helps set the tone of a story-telling narrative.
- ▶ The author continues the piece with other quotes from those who attended the Unite the Right rally, reported in a direct speech method. By choosing to directly quote the sources rather than summarize what they chanted, the full impact of the racism that their words carry can be felt by the reader.
- ▶ Later on in the article, the author briefly paints a picture of a conflict between a rally member and a protester. By quoting both sides in this conflict, the journalist puts us in the midst of the conflict as if it were playing out in front of us.
- ▶ Throughout the article, multiple expert sources (e.g. policemen, politicians, etc.) are quoted. These quotes act to balance out the narrative format of the article; by quoting members of authority, the journalist adds authenticity and reliability to the article.

The End!



A Quick Reminder: Please keep in mind that our analysis of the Charlottesville article might not be exactly the same as yours. That's okay - there isn't necessarily a "right" way to analyze an article. As long as you can back up your claims, then you can consider your reading valid! (Unless Professor Shapiro says otherwise, that is.)

We hope you found this presentation helpful!

- Emily and Brigett :)