

POS 4931- Media and Politics, Professor Rosenson

Second Assignment, Due April 26 (can submit earlier)

Make sure to read closely the information on formatting and use of quotations at the end of this page and the beginning of the next page.

Topic: How does the media cover foreign policy and war? And WHY does it cover them in the way it does?

Paper Length; 7-9 pages (7 pages minimum, but you can go beyond 9 pages if you want. Remember the page length has been shortened from the original 10-12 pages, so it may be challenging to fit everything into just 7 pages.

To answer this question you must do five things.

- 1) Discuss the Chomsky reading (chapters 2 and 3), which provides a theoretical perspective on how the media cover events in different foreign countries. Don't just summarize it, but indicate whether you find it convincing or not.
- 2) Discuss Entman, p. 1-17 (specifically the cascading activation model, which is presented as a contrast to Chomsky's hegemony model). Indicate whether or not you find Entman's cascading activation model convincing.
- 3) Discuss AT LEAST ONE of the following case studies from the readings: the KAL/Iran Air cases, Grenada, Panama, Libya, or Iraq, or Vietnam. You can of course discuss more than one case.
- 4) Discuss AT LEAST ONE of the following readings: Graber chapter 6, 34, 27 or Haigh, "A Comparison of Embedded and Non-Embedded Print Coverage."
- 5) Read and discuss 2 newspaper articles that deal with US foreign policy/wars. Check with me if you are not sure about whether an article is appropriate.

As with the paper on media bias, the articles you choose must be HARD NEWS stories, NOT editorials or opinion pieces. Ask if you are not sure. Non-hard news stories generally say "editorial" or "opinion" or "commentary."

These papers can come from any news source. Some suggestions for article topics:

US relations with a foreign country such as Mexico or North Korea under the Trump Administration; how the US is dealing with ISIS.

You don't have to pick articles that deal with current foreign policy. You could choose one or more historical articles that address the Vietnam War or 9/11, etc.

At the end of the paper, include a separate bibliographical page for your newspaper articles. It should list a) the author of the article, b) title of the article, c) newspaper name, d) date of publication.

**** FORMATTING:** The paper should be 7-9 pages long, no shorter than 7 pages. You can go more than 9 pages if you have a lot to say. The cover page does not count toward the page limit. Please use margins of 1.25 on each side and on the top and bottom. Make sure to use a 12 point font, preferably Times New Roman. The paper must be DOUBLE SPACED and the PAGES MUST BE NUMBERED. If you cite from an assigned course reading, please use the following format:

“The media is a propaganda machine for the government.” (Herman and Chomsky, p. 59).

If you cite from an outside source, use the same format and include the source in your bibliographic page after your newspaper articles.

Below are some of my personal “pet peeves” when it comes to writing, to keep in mind when you write your paper. These are concerns other professors share, so it's not just me you will be pleasing by focusing on these things.

1. Avoid paragraphs (and sentences) that run on and on. Find “natural” places to separate your ideas, and give the reader a break before he/she starts another paragraph. It is hard to follow someone's ideas when they ramble on for, say, two pages straight with no break point. My rule of thumb is no paragraph should be longer than one page. And as you learned in K-12, you should try to connect the paragraphs with a transition sentence, so that you don't just randomly leap from discussion of one topic to discussion of a totally unrelated topic.

2. Make sure your sentences are really sentences, not just phrases.

3. Pay attention to use of singular versus plural; make sure your subjects and verbs correspond.

4. Use spell check and grammar check, but also read over the final version once. Some mistakes don't show up on spell check; a word may be spelled correctly but be the wrong word for that sentence. It doesn't take that long to proofread your paper once and I promise you will catch at least one error, and the final product will read better for your efforts.