

University of Central Florida (UCF) JOU3015 Principles of Journalism Final Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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1. What does the acronym FOLA stand for?
 - A. Freedom of Labor Act
 - B. Freedom of Information Act
 - C. Federal Open Library Act
 - D. Free Online Literature Assessment
2. What is a key takeaway regarding the importance of journalism in society?
 - A. It is merely a business like any other
 - B. It is essential for accountability and bringing change
 - C. It thrives solely on public interest
 - D. It operates without any ethical considerations
3. What was the significance of Nancy Alvarez accurately pronouncing Hispanic names in her reporting?
 - A. To gain media awards
 - B. To connect with the families of victims
 - C. To demonstrate language skills
 - D. To emphasize cultural differences
4. Which type of journalism does Christal Hayes exemplify through her work?
 - A. Feature writing
 - B. Breaking news reporting
 - C. Editorial writing
 - D. Investigative journalism
5. Why do journalists report on disturbing or traumatic events?
 - A. To sensationalize the stories for ratings
 - B. To inform the public about reality
 - C. To critique government policies
 - D. To entertain their audience

6. What film illustrates journalistic excellence by covering a real investigative story?
- A. Spotlight
 - B. The Post
 - C. All the President's Men
 - D. The Insider
7. In the context of reporting, what is the significance of mentorship mentioned for MMJs?
- A. It helps avoid legal issues
 - B. It develops story ideas
 - C. It teaches safety practices
 - D. It ensures faster reporting
8. What type of records did Mike Rezendes focus on during his reporting?
- A. Financial documents
 - B. Social media interactions
 - C. Court records related to abuse
 - D. Personal diaries
9. In what scenario can journalists manipulate images
- A. For editorial purposes
 - B. When trying to create a narrative
 - C. Only if the audience is informed
 - D. To enhance visual appeal
10. What do budget documents fall under in terms of public records?
- A. Confidential records
 - B. Types of public records
 - C. Non-essential documents
 - D. Business filings

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. C
9. C
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What does the acronym FOLA stand for?

- A. Freedom of Labor Act
- B. Freedom of Information Act
- C. Federal Open Library Act
- D. Free Online Literature Assessment

The acronym FOLA stands for the Freedom of Information Act, which is a significant piece of legislation designed to promote transparency and accountability in government. This act grants the public the right to access information held by federal government agencies. By doing so, it empowers citizens to better understand government processes and decisions, thereby fostering an informed electorate. The Freedom of Information Act plays a crucial role in journalism as it allows journalists to request documents and information that may be vital for investigative reporting, ultimately serving the public interest. This access can lead to enhanced reporting on government actions and policies, helping hold officials accountable to the populace. In contrast, other options listed do not refer to established laws or concepts related to journalism or public information access, which is why they do not accurately represent what FOLA signifies.

2. What is a key takeaway regarding the importance of journalism in society?

- A. It is merely a business like any other
- B. It is essential for accountability and bringing change
- C. It thrives solely on public interest
- D. It operates without any ethical considerations

The recognition that journalism is essential for accountability and bringing change underscores its critical role in a democratic society. Through investigative reporting, fact-checking, and the dissemination of information, journalism serves as a watchdog that holds powerful entities—be they government agencies, corporations, or other institutions—accountable for their actions and decisions. This aspect of journalism fosters transparency, as it informs the public about issues that affect their lives and communities. By shining a light on corruption, injustice, and abuses of power, journalism not only informs citizens but also empowers them to advocate for change. This transformative power of journalism is vital, as it contributes to an informed electorate and supports the fundamental principles of democracy. In contrast, the notion of journalism being merely a business or operating without ethical considerations diminishes its societal role, and the idea that it thrives solely on public interest overlooks the inherent responsibility journalists have to provide balanced and informative coverage. Overall, the emphasis on accountability and change captures the essence of why journalism is indispensable in maintaining a healthy, functioning society.

3. What was the significance of Nancy Alvarez accurately pronouncing Hispanic names in her reporting?

- A. To gain media awards
- B. To connect with the families of victims
- C. To demonstrate language skills
- D. To emphasize cultural differences

The significance of Nancy Alvarez accurately pronouncing Hispanic names in her reporting lies primarily in her ability to connect with the families of victims. Correct pronunciation shows respect and acknowledgment of individuals' identities, which can be particularly meaningful in the context of reporting on sensitive topics such as crime or tragedy. By taking the time to pronounce names accurately, she builds trust and rapport with the families and communities involved, fostering a deeper connection that is essential for ethical journalism. This practice also reflects an understanding of the cultural background of these families, which can lead to more empathetic and effective storytelling. Overall, it enhances the credibility of the journalist and underscores the importance of representation in media.

4. Which type of journalism does Christal Hayes exemplify through her work?

- A. Feature writing
- B. Breaking news reporting
- C. Editorial writing
- D. Investigative journalism

Christal Hayes is recognized primarily for her work in breaking news reporting. This type of journalism is characterized by the timely delivery of news on events as they unfold, focusing on accuracy and speed. Breaking news requires journalists to respond quickly to developing stories, often involving critical incidents such as natural disasters, accidents, or significant political events, allowing the audience to stay informed in real-time. Her work often involves gathering information rapidly, conducting interviews on the spot, and providing updates as new details emerge. This responsiveness to immediate situations is a hallmark of breaking news reporting, which has a distinct role in journalism by serving to inform the public about urgent developments. While feature writing, editorial writing, and investigative journalism are all valuable forms of reporting with specific characteristics and purposes, breaking news reporting is defined by its immediacy and the necessity for quick dissemination of information.

5. Why do journalists report on disturbing or traumatic events?

- A. To sensationalize the stories for ratings
- B. To inform the public about reality
- C. To critique government policies
- D. To entertain their audience

Journalists report on disturbing or traumatic events to inform the public about reality. This role is fundamental to journalism, as it seeks to provide a clear and truthful account of events that impact society. By covering such stories, journalists bring attention to issues that may otherwise go unnoticed, fostering awareness and understanding among the public. This informs citizens about critical matters that may require their attention, engagement, or action, promoting a well-informed and engaged society. Reporting on these events is not about sensationalism, entertainment, or merely criticizing government policies. Instead, it centers on the responsibility of journalists to convey the truth, encouraging informed discussion and response from the community. This commitment to revealing the complexities of human experience serves to uphold the essential tenets of journalism, including the pursuit of truth and serving the public interest.

6. What film illustrates journalistic excellence by covering a real investigative story?

- A. Spotlight
- B. The Post
- C. All the President's Men
- D. The Insider

The film that illustrates journalistic excellence by covering a real investigative story is "Spotlight." This film is centered around the investigative journalism team at The Boston Globe, which uncovered the widespread sexual abuse scandal within the Catholic Church. It effectively demonstrates the crucial role of journalism in holding powerful institutions accountable and showcases the meticulous research, ethical considerations, and challenges that journalists often face when pursuing difficult stories. "Spotlight" is particularly renowned for its portrayal of the rigorous journalistic process, including the importance of sourcing, fact-checking, and collaboration among reporters. The film emphasizes dedication to uncovering the truth and highlights the impact that investigative journalism can have on public awareness and policy change. By focusing on this real-life investigation, "Spotlight" serves as a strong representation of journalistic integrity and the pursuit of truth in the face of adversity.

7. In the context of reporting, what is the significance of mentorship mentioned for MMJs?

- A. It helps avoid legal issues
- B. It develops story ideas
- C. It teaches safety practices
- D. It ensures faster reporting

The significance of mentorship for multimedia journalists (MMJs) is multifaceted, but primarily, it plays a crucial role in teaching safety practices. In the field of journalism, particularly when covering breaking news or potentially dangerous situations, having a mentor can guide newer journalists on how to navigate risks effectively. They provide essential training on protocols for ensuring personal safety as well as the safety of sources and the public during reporting. This knowledge is invaluable in preparing MMJs to make informed decisions while out in the field, thereby enhancing their overall ability to report responsibly. While developing story ideas, avoiding legal issues, and ensuring faster reporting are all components of the journalism training process, mentorship serves as a vital conduit for imparting knowledge about safety practices; this is particularly important in today's fast-paced and often unpredictable media environment. Mentors share their experiences, advise on the nuances of various situations, and instill a sense of caution, thereby directly impacting the well-being of those they guide.

8. What type of records did Mike Rezendes focus on during his reporting?

- A. Financial documents
- B. Social media interactions
- C. Court records related to abuse
- D. Personal diaries

Mike Rezendes, known for his investigative reporting work with the Boston Globe, specifically focused on court records related to abuse in his coverage of the Catholic Church sex abuse scandal. His diligent examination of these legal documents provided critical evidence and helped uncover the extent of the abuse and the institutional cover-up that occurred over many years. Court records are essential in investigative journalism as they offer factual accounts of legal proceedings, including testimonies and decisions that can illustrate patterns of behavior or systemic issues within organizations. This focus not only strengthened the credibility of the reporting but also highlighted the importance of accessing and analyzing official documents to provide a comprehensive understanding of a sensitive and complex issue.

9. In what scenario can journalists manipulate images

- A. For editorial purposes
- B. When trying to create a narrative
- C. Only if the audience is informed
- D. To enhance visual appeal

In journalism, the ethical use of images is critical to maintaining trust and credibility. The scenario where journalists can manipulate images is most appropriately addressed by the choice that emphasizes the need to keep the audience informed. Manipulating images while ensuring that the audience is made aware of these alterations respects the principles of transparency and honesty that are foundational in journalism. When journalists inform the audience about the manipulation, it allows viewers to understand the context and intention behind the alterations, thereby preserving the integrity of the information being presented. This approach also aligns with ethical standards in journalism, which prioritize factual reporting and the audience's right to know how images may have been modified for interpretation. In contrast, manipulating images purely for editorial purposes, the creation of a narrative, or to enhance visual appeal without informing the audience can lead to misinformation and a loss of trust in media. This scenario illustrates the delicate balance journalists must maintain between presentation and responsibility.

10. What do budget documents fall under in terms of public records?

- A. Confidential records
- B. Types of public records
- C. Non-essential documents
- D. Business filings

Budget documents fall under types of public records because they are considered essential for transparency in government operations. Public records are documents or information that are created and maintained by government agencies that are accessible to the public. Budget documents detail how public funds are allocated and spent, providing insight into governmental priorities and decision-making processes. This accessibility is vital for accountability, as it allows citizens to understand how their tax dollars are being used. In many jurisdictions, there are laws that mandate the disclosure of budget documents to ensure that the public has the right to scrutinize and engage with governmental financial planning. This contrasts with confidential records, which are not available to the public, and helps differentiate budget documents from non-essential documents and business filings, which serve different purposes and audiences.