



HUSSMAN SCHOOL
OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA

Investigative Journalism

MEJO 390.1

ZOOM LINK FOR CLASS EVERY MONDAY 11AM

<https://unc.zoom.us/j/92893466154>

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Stephen Stock: What did you find?



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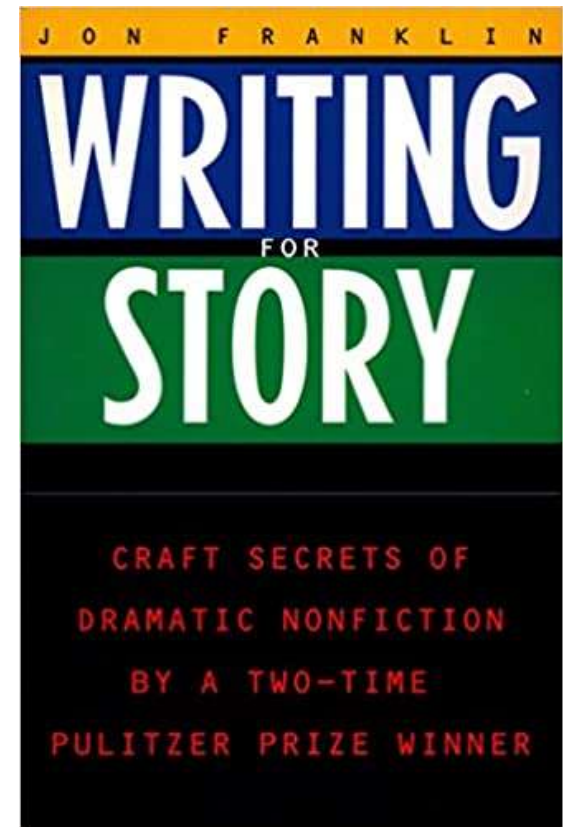
ENDEAVOUR'S FINAL FLIGHT



LIVE REPORTS
MONDAY MAY 16TH
ON CBS4 NEWS

Writing for Story

- What did you take away?
- What did you learn?
- What are the elements for a good, compelling story?
- How do you summarize any story?
- Did you just read the Preface and Chapters 1 and 4 or did you venture to read the short story(ies)?
- Quiz will be on Preface thru Chapter 4



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The Deadly Choices at Memorial



Paolo Pellegrin/Magnum, for The New York Times

AUG. 1, 2009 Four years after Katrina, wheelchairs and equipment litter a walkway to the helipad at the former Memorial Medical Center, parts of which have not reopened. [More Photos »](#)

By SHERI FINK
Published: August 25, 2009

This article is a collaboration between ProPublica and The New York Times.

For more information on this story visit ProPublica.

Multimedia



[Slide Show](#)
Care During Crisis

The smell of death was overpowering the moment a relief worker cracked open one of the hospital chapel's wooden doors. Inside, more than a dozen bodies lay motionless on low cots and on the ground, shrouded in white sheets. Here, a wisp of gray hair peeked out. There, a knee was flung akimbo. A pallid hand reached across a blue gown.

Within days, the grisly tableau became the focus of an investigation into what happened when the floodwaters of [Hurricane Katrina](#) marooned Memorial Medical Center in Uptown New Orleans. The hurricane knocked out power and running water and sent the temperatures inside above

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The Deadly Choices at Memorial

By Sheri Fink

The New York Times & ProPublica

What makes this investigative?

What sources does author use?

What techniques does she use?

Your reaction to the story?

Did it accomplish what it set out to do?



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YOUR STORY PITCHES?
#WHATDOYAGOT?

PART B



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Deconstruct Stories

Stephen Stock Water Bills

<http://nbcbay.com/JHkHH0p>

Stephen Stock COVID in the Fields

<http://nbcbay.com/kWiBZyA>

Stephen Stock ICE Violates Own Rules/Enrique Salas

<http://nbcbay.com/1qYCf4A>



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Deconstruct Stories

Kimberly King “American Zinc” – WLOS-TV

<https://wlos.com/news/local/dont-eat-the-fish-scientist-says-broad-river-being-poisoned-by-american-zinc>



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Deconstruct Stories

Daralene Jones “Gang War” – WFTV

<https://youtu.be/GdeUgT8mgcs>



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Deconstruct Stories

Nate Morabito “Failing Students Still Graduate”—WCNC

<https://www.wcnc.com/article/news/investigations/investigators/some-failing-cms-seniors-given-unfair-last-second-chance-to-graduate/275-27a2eaa6-ff42-4107-88c5-c337fb7e714a>



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Deconstruct Stories

Dave Savini “My Name is Anjanette Young” –
WBBM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jfvGBI2bLM&t=2s>





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Deconstruct Stories

Charlie LeDuff America's Worst Politician

Fox2 - The Americans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EcrEO4Jrhk>



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Deconstruct Stories

Brad Edwards “Sex Assault Victims Name Made Public”
WBBM

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2020/10/23/names-private-information-of-child-sex-crime-victims-were-illegally-made-public-in-cook-county-court-records/>

PART C



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SOURCING



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Types of Sources

- Humans
- Records
- Primary Documents
- Secondary Documents
- Data – both structured and unstructured



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Human Sources

- Public officials
- Private citizens
 - Business owners
 - Management
 - Workers
 - Victims
 - Charity officials



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Dealing with Human Sources

- Primary sources
- Secondary sources
- Third hand sources



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Dealing with Human Sources

In *The Investigative Reporter's Handbook* Houston and Horvit ask:

Are they

- Current
- Former
- ??????



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Evaluating Human Sources

- Are they credible?
- Do they actually know what they're talking about?
- Are their claims credible?
- Do they have first-hand knowledge? Or is it second-hand or even speculation?
- Are they experts in the field or topic?



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Evaluating Human Sources

- Do they have an axe to grind?
- What is/are their motivation(s) in talking to you?
- What do they have to gain or lose?
- Are they a third party with no direct “skin in the game?”
- Have they been victimized?
- Vet EVEN sympathetic sources or primary “tipsters”



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Setting Ground Rules with Human Sources

- On the record
 - Background
 - Off-the-record – Confidential
- (no such thing as totally off the record)



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Can You Record Human Sources

- On the record – obviously yes. The source knows you are recording and taking notes.
- Background and Off the Record you should be more careful.
- Finally, if you're on a phone call or recording without the source knowing there are laws governing that.



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Can You Record Human Sources

- Know your State Law as it pertains to 1 party and 2 party Consent
- 1 party Consent only one person in the conversation has to know it's being recorded
- 2 party Consent BOTH parties must know AND agree to be recorded with the acknowledgement it will be later used "on air"
- This has become VERY important now in age of Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams, etc



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Can You Record Human Sources

- Know your State Law as it pertains to 1 party and 2 party Consent
- North Carolina is a 1 party Consent State
- California is a 2 party Consent State



“Can We
Tape?”

A journalist's
guide to
taping
phone calls
and

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

<https://www.rcfp.org/wp-content/uploads/imported/CANWETAPE.pdf>



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Human Interviews

- Learn and practice talking to people
 - In person
 - On the telephone
 - On Zoom
 - Through email and text



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Art of Interview

Don't ask leading questions
Don't ask "yes" or "no" questions
Don't berate
Don't back down
Don't "know it all"

Do ask open ended questions
Do keep questions short
Do ask from the subject's
perspective
Do try to connect
Do be patient and let them talk
Do listen



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Human Interviews

Practice, practice, practice



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Records

- Primary Documents
- Secondary Documents



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Primary Records

Public Government Records
Court Records
Private Company Records
Legal Notices
Police Reports
Uniform Commercial Code
Institution Records

Liens and Tax Documents
Property Records
Inspection Records
National Archives
Congress
State Government
Surveillance Video



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Secondary Records

Archives

Old Newspapers or Microfiche

Articles

Classified Ads

Obituaries

Birth Announcements

Wedding Announcements

Old TV Stories or Cable TV

Old movies

Libraries

Dissertations

Books

Magazines

Scientific Research

Bibliographies

Secondary source databases



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Data

- Politics\Campaign Contributions
- Environment
- Demographic data\US Census
- Crime & Guns
- Tax Records
- Property Records
- Education Records



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Data

- Courts and Jails
- Infrastructure
- Inspection Records
- Licenses
- Accident data
- Registration data
- National Archives, Congress, State Government



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Homework

- ❖ Quiz on ***Writing for Story*** - Preface through Chapter 4
- ❖ Read Chapters 2 and 3 of ***The Investigative Reporter's Handbook***
- ❖ *Begin thinking of story pitches. What story do you want to do?*



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Homework

- **LONG TERM:**
 - Interview at least two people in person
(Zoom okay)



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Homework

Long Term Class:

- Final Project Story pitch due **October 4**
- File at least two (2) FOIA's due **September 20**
- **Outline** of Final Project due **November 1**
- Attend a public meeting and bring back 2 story ideas due **Nov 15**
- Go to Courthouse and get Court Records Due **Nov 8**
- Rough Draft of Project due **November 22**
- **Final Project Due December 6th**



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Other Stories

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Stephen Stock COVID in the Fields <http://nbcbay.com/kWiBZyA>

Stephen Stock ICE Violates Own Rules/Enrique Salas <http://nbcbay.com/1qYCf4A>

Kimberly King <https://wlos.com/news/local/dont-eat-the-fish-scientist-says-broad-river-being-poisoned-by-american-zinc>

Daralene Jones <https://youtu.be/GdeUgT8mgcs>

AJ Lagoe <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emU1Lj1xeu4>

Charlie LeDuff <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EcrEO4Jrhk>

Lee Zurik GRAY NATIONAL INVESTIGATION ON CRASH TEST DUMMIES:
<https://www.investigatetv.com/collision-division/>

Lee Zurik LOCAL INVESTIGATION ON ABANDONED OIL WELLS:
<https://www.fox8live.com/2021/07/22/zurik-family-pushes-change-after-well-thought-be-abandoned-explodes-killing-teenage-girl/>

Lee Zurik LOCAL INVESTIGATION ON PPP LOANS:
<https://www.fox8live.com/2021/07/29/zurik-new-orleans-company-receives-180000-ppp-loan-likely-had-no-employees/>

Dave Savini My Name is Anjanette Young

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAV8WEsyD9EehY3wtGrycYw>

Other Stories

Nate Morabito <https://www.wcnc.com/article/news/investigations/investigators/some-failing-cms-seniors-given-unfair-last-second-chance-to-graduate/275-27a2eaa6-ff42-4107-88c5-c337fb7e714a>

Nate Morabito <https://www.wcnc.com/video/news/crime/data-shows-cmpd-swat-team-rarely-serves-search-warrants-in-south-charlotte/275-20fd86b0-1e6b-43ff-ab22-fe70024a0147>

Nate Morabito <https://www.wcnc.com/video/money/the-mecklenburg-county-government-awarded-5-million-in-loans-to-mystery-small-businesses/275-881a0c4d-3915-4404-b62c-a3d4ed5f3c24?jwsourc=cl> (use second story)



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