



Digging Deeper Into (And Across) Our News Sources

Dr. Troy Hicks

hickstro@gmail.com

[@hickstro](https://twitter.com/hickstro)

hickstro.org


 Digging Deeper Into (And Across) Our News Sources - WS...

Shortlink for this “View Only” Document (Make a Copy):

<https://bit.ly/Dig-WSRA-2025>

“Popping Filter Bubbles and Breaking Algorithms”

1. Use [Allsides](#) to find two articles on the same topic on opposite sides of the political spectrum. Alternatively, in Michigan, we have access through MEL.org to [Gale’s Opposing Viewpoints in Context](#) and [EBSCO’s Points of View Reference Center](#), though they are not labeled as clearly as All Sides.
 - a. Take a screenshot with the headline and dominant image. Insert it. Write about it.
 - b. Create word clouds for each using [Voyant Tools](#). Take a screenshot and insert it. Write about it.
2. Look for evidence in the article. There are many ways to consider the quality and hierarchy of evidence from personal anecdote, to political polls, to randomized-controlled studies. For students, helping them consider different kinds of [evidence](#) might be a good start.
 - a. Try to find at least two different kinds of evidence.
3. For upper level students, dig deeper and use theory.
 - a. Find examples of the kinds of ideological markers from Schena, J., Almiron, N., & Pineda, A. (2018). [Mapping press ideology. A methodological proposal to systematise the analysis of political ideologies in newspapers](#). *Observatorio (OBS*)*, 12(3), 17–47.
 - b. Also, use Kellner and Share’s [Conceptual Understandings and Key Questions from their Critical Media Literacy Framework](#) .
4. Want an extension? Engage with AI to have it provide feedback on the language used in each article.
 - a. [Example output from ChatGPT](#) (Free)
 - b. [Example output from Perplexity](#) (Pro Subscription with DeepSeek Reasoning)
 - c. [Example output from Gemini](#) (Paid version, 2.0 Flash)
 - d. [Example output from Gemini](#) (Paid version, 1.5 Pro with Deep Research)
 - i. Note that it stated clearly that it didn’t go behind the paywall
5. Craft a kernel essay. See Troy’s Sample:

 [Sample for WSRA 2025: Digging Deeper Into \(And Across\) Our News Sources](#)

Article 1: <TITLE>	Article 2: <TITLE>
Notes about the headline:	Notes about the headline:
Notes about the dominant image:	Notes about the dominant image:
Notes about the word cloud (words and phrases):	Notes about the word cloud (words and phrases):

Notes about the types of evidence being employed:	Notes about the types of evidence being employed:
Notes about other ideological markers:	Notes about other ideological markers:
Craft a kernel essay:	
<p>When it comes to the topic of _____, most of us will readily agree that _____.</p> <p>Where this agreement usually ends, however, is on the question of _____.</p> <p>Some, including _____, are convinced that _____,</p> <p>Others, including, ___ believe that _____.</p> <p>Ultimately, what is at stake here is _____.</p>	

Continue Your Learning:

- John Green’s Crash Course on “[Check Yourself with Lateral Reading: Crash Course Navigating Digital Information #3](#)” especially from 3:00 to 8:14, where he talks about Wikipedia’s content policies. (2019)
 - Transcript available [here](#).
- [They Say / I Say Sentence Templates](#)
- Pariser, E. (2011, March). [Beware online “filter bubbles.”](#) TED Talk.
- Comparison sites
 - [ProCon](#)
 - [EBSCO’s Points of View Reference Center](#)
 - [Gale’s Opposing Viewpoints in Context](#)
 - [Kialo](#) and [Kialo EDU](#)
 - [NewsCompare](#)
 - Created by Isaac Saul of [Tangle](#)
- Political typologies
 - [Pew Political Typology Quiz](#)
 - [I Side With](#)
 - [AllSides’ Rate Your Bias](#)
 - [Politecho](#), [Ven](#), [Centr](#), and [Escape Your Bubble](#)
- To move your writing forward

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- [“They Say/I Say” Sentence Templates](#)
 - Gonchar, M. (2017, March 1). [401 Prompts for Argumentative Writing](#). *The New York Times*.
 - More on media literacy
 - [Media Education Lab’s “Media Literacy Smartphone”](#)
 - [Center for Media Literacy’s “Five Key Questions”](#)
 - [News Literacy Project](#), especially their resources on [AI](#)
 - [Civic Online Reasoning](#)
 - More on civil dialogue
 - Hi From The Other Side. (2017). [Conversation Guide](#).
 - One Small Step. (2020, July 1). [Take One Small Step With Ideastream And StoryCorps](#).
 - [National Writing Project’s College, Career, and Community Writers Program](#)
 - Word cloud generators: [WordArt.com](#) and [Voyant Tools](#)
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From Chapter 6: “Understand How Knowledge Gets Created and Circulated”

1. Use [Wikipedia](#) to find an article of interest.
2. Complete the information below.
3. Using the details you found on *Wikipedia*, complete the sentence templates.

<i>Wikipedia</i> Article Topic:
1. When the page was created
2. When the most recent edit occurred
3. How many total edits have occurred on the page
4. How many contributors have added to the page
5. How many discussions about the page have occurred (or are currently going on)
6. How many references are available to outside sources
Bonus: Find the citation for the <i>Wikipedia</i> page and copy it here
Complete the sentence templates:
According to the <i>Wikipedia</i> entry on <TOPIC>, which was created on #1 (with its most recent edit on #2 and a total of #3 edits), “QUOTATION.” This suggests that INSERT YOUR IDEAS ABOUT THE TOPIC.
Given that there #4 contributors have added value to its <i>Wikipedia</i> entry, and that #5 discussions about it exist on the companion “talk” page, the topic of X is INSERT YOUR IDEAS ABOUT THE TOPIC.

With a total of #6 outside references to substantiate its claims, the *Wikipedia* entry on X notes “QUOTATION.” This is important because INSERT YOUR IDEAS ABOUT THE TOPIC.

Continue Your Learning:

- John Green’s Crash Course on [“Navigating Digital Information,” Episode 5: “Using Wikipedia”](#) especially from 3:00 to 8:14, where he talks about Wikipedia’s content policies. (2019)
 - Transcript available [here](#).
- Garfield, B. (2005, July 8). [Get Me Rewrite](#). On the Media.
- [Wikipedia xTools](#)
- American Libraries Magazine. (2011). [Sue Gardner Calls for Librarians to Dive in to the World of Wikipedia](#). American Libraries Magazine.
- Wales, J. (2005). [The birth of Wikipedia](#). TED Talk.