

Friday Discussion Lead Guidelines:

Choosing a Story:

Pick a story (or a series of stories) that will lead to robust debate/discussion and highlight important elements of journalism. It can be recent, controversial, or historical. If you need ideas, look through the links on the site. Think back on other choices. Clear it with me by the Monday of the week you are leading the discussion.

Why You're Doing it:

To take ownership in part of the class. To develop your presentation skills. To add your own unique viewpoint and background, where relevant. And to give your fellow students a break from hearing me prattle on all the time.

Preparing

If possible, strive to lead the group on a journey. Introduce ideas that lead to larger discussions and debate. You can have students read parts of a story in class, or highlight parts of it. That is often a valuable way to get people going. Take this as a valuable opportunity to practice presenting: incorporate research, or reporting (contact an author) or visuals if you like.

For grading, here's what's expected/hoped for:

- * Picking a journalism theme or two to highlight in your presentation
- * Leading students in a discussion that expands to cover larger topics. Consider yourself like a moderator in a debate, or an interviewer in a group setting
- * As it goes, filling in relevant information (not at the start necessarily), to educate the class and spur the discussion forward
- * General professionalism: be five minutes early so you're ready, being prepared, etc