

Summarizing and Analyzing Reporting on Public Health Crises

Directions:

1. Complete at least two of the following **reporting summaries** (page 2–4). Use the boxes to summarize and analyze news stories from journalists who have covered public health challenges. Fill out one reporting summary for each article you read.
2. Use your notes from the reporting summaries to complete the **extension activities to analyze public health reporting** (page 5–6).

Vocabulary:

Definitions for all terms but “news outlet” and “journalist” from Merriam Webster Dictionary

1. **Headline:** a head of a newspaper story or article usually printed in large type and giving the gist of the story or article that follows
2. **News outlet:** The name of the publication (newspaper, tv show, online organization, etc.) that published the story or article
3. **Journalist:** a person who researches and tells stories for publication in a news outlet
4. **Public health:** the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private communities, and individuals
5. **Infectious disease:** a disease (as influenza, malaria, meningitis, rabies, or tetanus) caused by the entrance into the body of pathogenic agents or microorganisms (as bacteria, viruses, protozoans, or fungi) which grow and multiply there
6. **Epidemic:** an outbreak of disease that spreads quickly and affects many individuals at the same time : an outbreak of epidemic disease

Reporting Summary 1

1. Headline		
2. News Outlet		
3. Journalist		
4. Capture three key details and/or moments from the story that stuck out to you. Option: Write a sentence <u>or</u> draw a picture to share each detail in a box below.		
5. Write a 3-5 sentence summary of the article that explains... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>What infectious disease does the journalist report on?</i> b. <i>How did the disease spread, and where did it spread?</i> c. <i>What was done to prevent the spread of disease? Who was involved and what did they do?</i> d. <i>What can be done in the future to prevent the spread of this disease?</i> 		
Summary: 		

Reporting Summary 2

1. Headline		
2. News Outlet		
3. Journalist		
4. Use the boxes below to capture three key details and/or moments from the story that stuck out to you. Option: Write a sentence <u>or</u> draw a picture to share the detail.		
5. Write a 3-5 sentence summary of the article that explains... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>What infectious disease does the journalist report on, and what caused it?</i> b. <i>How did the disease spread, and where did it spread?</i> c. <i>What was done to prevent the spread of disease? Who was involved and what did they do?</i> d. <i>What can be done in the future to prevent the spread of this disease?</i> 		
Summary: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>		

Reporting Summary 3

1. Headline					
2. News Outlet					
3. Journalist					
4. Use the boxes below to capture three key details and/or moments from the story that stuck out to you. Option: Write a sentence <u>or</u> draw a picture to share the detail.					
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 150px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> </table>					
5. Write a 3-5 sentence summary of the article that explains... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>What infectious disease does the journalist report on, and what caused it?</i> b. <i>How did the disease spread, and where did it spread?</i> c. <i>What was done to prevent the spread of disease? Who was involved and what did they do?</i> d. <i>What can be done in the future to prevent the spread of this disease?</i> 					
Summary: 					

Extension Activities: Analyzing Reporting on Public Health Crises

Option 1. Create a resource to inform and inspire

Develop a resource for your own community that shares what you learned from one of the articles you read. Consider the following as you create your resource:

- What elements could you use from the article that would help inform and impassion your community?
- What additional information and resources might you need to get your community engaged?
- What is your ultimate goal for the resource? What do you want your community to feel/think about/do as a result of engaging with your resource?
- What is the best way to share this information with your community? (Social media post? Billboard? Pamphlet?)

Share your resource with Pulitzer Center by tagging @pulitzercenter on social media, or by emailing it to education@pulitzercenter.org.

Option 2: Essay analyzing reporting on the coronavirus

Consult several news outlets to research and write an essay about the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Use the following questions to structure your essay:

- How is COVID-19 transmitted?
- How has the disease spread, and where has it spread?
- How do experts say the following groups of people can help stop the spread of disease?
 - Individuals
 - Public health professionals
 - The government
- What variations do you see in how the virus is being reported on for different news outlets?
 - Who is quoted and cited in different pieces? What information do they share?
- How does the reporting on coronavirus compare with the news articles you read about past epidemics?
- How do you recommend that the public continue to update themselves about the spread of coronavirus, and efforts to stop the spread?

Option 3: Art amplifying the voices of those affected by infectious diseases

Which individuals featured in the articles you read are you still thinking about? Whose stories stuck out to you? A person affected by an infectious disease? A public health official who conducted research and/or outreach to stop the spread of an infectious disease? Use the steps below to create a work of art online, or by hand, that shares that person's story.

1. From the articles you read from Pulitzer Center journalists, or articles you have read on your own about the coronavirus, make a list of people whose stories stuck out to you.

2. Select at least one person from your list, and make a list of details and quotes from that person's story.
3. Use those details/quotes to inspire an original art piece (painting, comic, digital artwork) that reflects that person's story. Email your piece to education@pulitzercenter.org.