

Handout

News Values

Directions: Read these versions of Galtung and Ruge's news values, adapted from [BBC Bitesize](#), then cut up the values along the dotted lines and place them in order of importance.

Recency

This is related to breaking news. Media organisations are highly focused on reporting on stories as they happen and being the first to report a story.

Size

The bigger the story, the more people affected and the more money/resources involved, the more likely it will be reported on.

Continuity

Events that will have an ongoing impact, like a war or a sports tournament, are likely to be reported on as there will be new details and audiences are more likely to repeatedly engage to get an update.

Simplicity

Simple stories that are easy to explain, such as large lottery wins or celebrity deaths, are preferred to those which are more complex, such as foreign wars or economic events.

Elite nations or people

An elite nation or person is one with influence. In the UK, a story about the American president or an American social issue is more likely to be reported on than a story about less influential countries and their leaders.

Exclusivity

This is related to a news outlet being the only one to break a story.

Predictability

If an event is likely to be dramatic or full of action, journalists will plan to attend it in advance. Sports matches and demonstrations are examples of such events.

Unexpectedness

A story about something unique or unusual has more news value than something that happens every day.

Negativity

Bad news stories, such as those which involve death, violence and extreme events, etc., are more likely to make the headlines than positive news stories.

Personality

A story about a celebrity or a heroic member of the general public will have a better chance of grabbing people's attention due to its 'human interest' angle.

Meaningfulness

Stories that have a local relevance or connection – i.e. they have a geographical proximity or involve people from the same country – are seen as more meaningful and more likely to help people connect to their content.

Currency

This relates to stories that have been news items for a while. A story about a missing person or a war, for example, can run for weeks, even if nothing new occurs.
