

Report the Vote #9 Social issues in reporting

Thanks for being here, I'm Lisa Loving and this is Report the Vote, workshop #9-b (lol) Social Issues in Reporting. Brought to you by the Pacifica Affiliate Network and WNUC LPFM in Detroit – and Pacifica.

In this workshop we cover crucial reporting skills, but this is the last episode of a series. Look for the others online, we're creating them one at a time and posting them at <https://pacificanetwork.org/report-the-vote-news-training/>.

SPECIAL NOTE #1: If you are working on elections coverage, I am heading up a new twice-monthly national radio show designed to carry your reporting. Would you like your work to reach a national audience? Email me! I am at lisaloving33@gmail.com. We're starting at the end of this month and running this show through the first week of January! Please and please again, I need your submissions to make this real. How can I work with you?

This is the last workshop and I wanted to take this opportunity to pull together a lot of the things we've talked about previously and help you chart out perhaps five different routes to topics of reporting that work for you so that you don't find yourself walking behind the mainstream reporters and what you're doing.

Fake news is one thing but the bigger issue is real information people don't want to hear. The key BTW damage DJT has done is to create widespread distrust of media in general – and people at any place on the political spectrum can relate to that.

It will impact anything you report.

What do I mean by social issues in reporting? Specifically I'm looking at what are all of the social issues that should be coming to bear on this process? but are they coming to bear? I have a list of things to cover but more than anything I want to talk with you about how to examine exactly what the mainstream outlets are covering, and then figure out what they're not covering which could be a fertile area for you.

What impacts this?

- People literally do not believe what they see in the media unless it supports the beliefs they already had. What are some of the other predictable errors that affect judgments like voting choices? — [HEURISTICS](#)

- How to tell what the top stories are—do a 5 point web search for < top election stories 2024 > it brings up results outlet by outlet and you can scan what the mainstream is covering.
1. Presidential Candidates themselves: Will Biden quit the race and what will happen then
 2. Vice P candidates themselves: What the choice of JD Vance means for the nation if the GOP wins
 3. The parties themselves: GOP political planks and Project 2025 (interestingly there is almost no coverage of the D party planks)
 4. Shooting attempt on DJT and violence on the campaign trail
 5. Wedge issues: immigration, abortion rights, LGBTQI2 rights, ([Iowa Capitol Dispatch column](#)) [VERY INTERESTING COVERAGE AT ICD](#)

EXERCISE:

- Without looking at anything at all, brainstorm a list of stories off the top of your head that you think your audience needs to hear.
 - Look for stories not on the mainstream radar, and also look for unique takes on the mainstream issues in your local community. Such as: voter demographics, polling place availability, what else?
- **What are the under-told stories? (KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BLUEANON PHENOMENA; COVID RATES ARE UP AS DETERMINED BY WATER SAMPLES)**
 1. Climate change
 2. Corporate involvement in government/fascism (ie Propublica reports on SCOTUS corruption, FOX+voting machine defamation lawsuit, [Elon Musk donating \\$45 million monthly to DJT campaign](#))
 3. Voter turnout & registration trends and demographics — always! This includes barriers to voter registration and obstacles to casting a ballot ie fewer polling places, “how young people voted”& get out the vote projects in your local community, explainers on how to track your ballot, police violence
 4. Is the current voting system aided by the Civil Rights Act of 1965? Or are these trends reverting to the patterns that prompted the act? [Inside the far-right plan to use civil rights law to disrupt the 2024 election](#)

5. What's another one? A story about the elections that the mainstream is not getting around to? Could be a story that is so local the mainstream doesn't know about it.

-----> figure out a way to include everyday people in your coverage so that your community sees itself reflected in your work. Small businesses, kids, elders, local nonprofits – ask them what they think the story is.

And a few more points:

- Look for “truthy” polls that don't ring true—> [Pew Center 6-part course explaining how polls work](#), 538 drama, Molly Jong Fast critiques on polling results, track them on her Xitter stream (as la democratic party voice criticizing the DNCs operations), I also follow this account on Xitter—> https://x.com/Politics_Polls,
- Track any kind of emergency alert system in your area, looking for police callouts, evacuations, heat alerts, anything that seems pertinent
- How to research breaking news on twitter: [hashtags](#)
- Ballot security: [University of Pittsburgh](#)

[How Implicit Bias Works in Journalism](#)

[How Do We Keep Bias Out of Stories?](#)