

Concept Cheatsheet: Framing

News frame

The information in a news story that suggests what the problem is about, how it can be addressed, and who is responsible for creating and solving it.

Hallin's Spheres

A concept that describes how problems are framed in the media within the ranges of public consensus, legitimate controversy, or deviance.

Framing effect

A cognitive bias in which individuals make decisions based on whether options are presented positively or negatively.

False balance

Framing opposing viewpoints as equal simply because they are in opposition, rather than framing them in proportion to their evidence.

Epistemic injustice

The wronging of individuals and communities in their capacity as “knowers” due to prejudices against their credibility and knowledge.

Asset framing

The act of framing a conversation about an individual or community in terms of their assets and aspirations, rather than in terms of what they lack.

Solutions journalism

Rigorous, evidence-based reporting on the responses to social problems.

Frameworks

Ways of organizing or ascribing meaning to patterns found within news frames or in the use of frames across media.

Role performance

A framework for examining how journalists' practices do or do not align with their stated professional ideals and missions.

Episodic/Thematic

Focusing on a singular story, event, or instance in lieu of or as the sole representation of its systemic or thematic context.

Metanarrative

The stories we tell about our stories; a way of understanding the themes and bird's eye views of the products of journalism.