

U.S. History
Yellow Journalism Activity

Name _____
Period _____

Task:

You will be completing several tasks as you explore the use of yellow journalism in the late 1800s. As you read headlines and news stories from the 1890s and today, think about the power of the media to influence individuals and world events. Be prepared to support or criticize this practice.

1. Using the **Yellow Journalism Fact Sheet**, you will collect as much information as you can about the practice of yellow journalism during the late 1800s and the competition between William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer.
2. Using a newspaper's website, you will select an article and rewrite the headline and story using the style of Yellow Journalism. Be sure to use a "sensational" headline and exaggerated facts.

Process

As you complete the following activities, be sure to think about the power of the media to influence individuals and world events. Be prepared to support or criticize the practice of yellow journalism.

STEP ONE

Using the following websites for help, collect as much information as you can in the time allowed about the practice of yellow journalism during the late 1800s and the competition between Hearst and Pulitzer. Record all information on the **Yellow Journalism Fact Sheet**. Be sure to look at the "Related Links" at each site and pay particular attention to the samples of newspapers from the 1800s. **You must READ the information presented in each website.**

<http://www.wikipedia.com/wiki/yellow+journalism>
<http://www.pbs.org/crucible/journalism.html>
<http://alt.tnt.tv/movies/ntoriginals/roughriders/jour.home.html>
<http://library.thinkquest.org/C0111500/spanamer/yellow.htm>
<http://www.smplanet.com/imperialism/remember.html>
<http://uregina.ca/mckenzie/mm/yellow%20journalism/yellowj3.htm>

STEP TWO

Each group of two should go to one of the following sites, select one article from today's newspaper, read the entire article, and rewrite the story and headline in the style of yellow journalism. Be sure to select a topic that is appropriate for school. Remember: It needs to be believable; no two-headed monkeys!

www.ctpost.com

www.nytimes.com

www.hartfordcourant.com

STEP THREE

Staple the Fact Sheet and your "Yellow Journalism News Article" together to hand in for a graded assignment.

YELLOW JOURNALISM FACT SHEET

Using the Yellow Journalism web sites, answer the following questions.

1. Define yellow journalism?
2. Why was yellow journalism used in the late 1890s?
3. Who are the two publishers best known for the use of yellow journalism **and** what was the name of each of their newspapers?
 - 1.
 - 2.
4. Write **two** headlines from the 1890s **and** explain the event that each was describing.

<u>Headline</u>	<u>Event</u>
1.	
2.	
5. Pretend you're a reporter in the late 1890s and William Randolph Hearst says to you: "You supply the pictures, and I'll supply the war." Write a three-sentence response to Mr. Hearst.
6. Would you describe this time period as "A Dark Age of Journalism" or "A Period of Freedom of the Press"? Why? REMEMBER: This is **your** opinion based on what you've read.
7. What responsibilities do **you** think newspapers have to the public when they publish their stories? Why?
8. Newspapers today use catchy headlines, humorous comic strips, and intrusive investigative reporting to "market" their newspapers. How are today's newspapers alike and different from those in the 1890s?

ALIKE:

DIFFERENT:
9. Give one example of "modern-day" yellow journalism? (an exaggerated news story)
10. What is the power of today's media to influence world events. Using at least three examples, make a case for or against legislation requiring responsible, ethical journalism.