News Deconstruction Outline
(selected article must be at least over 400 words and concern criminal law)

Your deconstruction must be typed, the original article must be attached, and all sources in the article must be highlighted. Attach your deconstruction in front of the article. News sources you may wish to use include: National Public Radio (NPR), The New York Times, CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, The Washington Post, etc… Avoid editorials and other opinion pieces unless directed to select them.

I.   **SUMMARY**
       Identify the name of the publication, date of publication, and name of the journalist. Summarize what seems to be the main idea(s) of the news article? **(50-100 words)**

II.   **EVALUATION OF SOURCES (Your article must have at least 3 sources)**
       Evaluate how the journalist knows what they know.
       a. Use the grid below to evaluate (judge) each source or information

M	A	V	I	N
Multiple sources are *better than* one	**A**uthoritative (has some expertise or authority on the subject) sources are *better than* non-authoritative informed sources. What are the credentials of each source? Are they a credible source or just a casual observer? Are they an eyewitness or just giving their opinion?	**V**erified sources are *better than* assertions. Are the statements made by this sources backed up or not? How are the facts backed up? (Official document, sworn statement, eyewitness account, or other evidence)	**I**ndependent sources are *better than* self-interested/bias ones. Does the source have something to lose or gain based on the outcome of the story. Is the source *biased*?	**N**amed sources are *better than* unnamed ones. If a source is unnamed, why is this?

EXAMPLE

M	A	V	I	N
1.	Highly Authoritative, lawyer on marriage laws	Verified, his statements are backed up because he is referring to current marriage laws in California that prohibit gay marriage	Highly Biased, he works for a gay rights organization	Mr. Edmund Munster
2.	Non-authoritative, simply a citizen giving their opinion	Assertions, just an opinion against gay marriage based on his religious beliefs	Seems independent but hard to tell because he is unnamed	Unnamed for privacy

    b. Identify and evaluate the credibility (believability) of any documents, video, or audio footage used in the news story

III. INDEPENDENT OR BIASED?

Does the article seem to be fair with the facts and even with sources or favoring one side of the situation? Explain.

IV. TRANSPARENCY

Is the news story transparent? (Does the journalist explain how they know what they know, what they don't know, and why they don't know it? Are sources identified?) Explain.

V. DIGGING FOR THE TRUTH

Did the journalist search deeper into the story and dig for the truth? (Did they take further steps to verify the facts they are reporting on or is there evidence of lazy or rushed reporting?)
Explain how they dug for truth or explain what they could have done to expand the reader's understanding of the story.

VI. REACTION (150 words)

What is your reaction/viewpoint on the news article?
 Is the article weak or strong and why do you think that?
How has the article changed your opinion on the subject?
If the article is about a controversial topic, has this article swayed your opinion at all? Explain.
Has the article made you want to take any action?
Do you have any unanswered questions? What are they?
Anything else?