

Introduction to Logical Reasoning

Thinking Critically About the Media

David Emmanuel Gray

Northwestern University in Qatar
Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar



Questions for Consideration

In what ways can the media shape and distort our picture of the world?

What factors influence this?

To what extent is this the reporter's responsibility?

To what extent can the reader be on guard for this?

Passive Reporting

Vodafone's BlackBerry App World Goes Online

April 14, 2011—DOHA—Vodafone yesterday said that BlackBerry App World is now available for its BlackBerry smartphone customers here.

The application will let users discover, download and enjoy the wide range of mobile applications for their BlackBerry smartphone from a variety of categories, including entertainment, games, IM and social networking, news, weather and productivity. The store is available for all BlackBerry smartphones with a trackball, trackpad or touch screen running BlackBerry OS (device software) 4.6 or higher. Customers can download BlackBerry App World directly to their smartphone by visiting *www.blackberry.com/appworld* or *mobile.blackberry.com*.

BlackBerry App World can be conveniently accessed over both Wi-Fi and mobile phone networks and automatically presents customers with the relevant catalogue of applications available for their specific BlackBerry smartphone model.

“BlackBerry users have been looking forward to the launch of BlackBerry App World in Qatar. We are thrilled about bringing this exciting new experience to Vodafone's BlackBerry smartphone customers in this market,” said Praveen Senadheera, Product Manager-BlackBerry, Vodafone Qatar.

Key features of BlackBerry App World include: Front Page Featured Items Carousel. BlackBerry App World showcases many applications on its front page, selected by a combination of country, carrier, device, OS so customers only see apps that are relevant to them.

—*The Peninsula.*

Selective Reporting

40-km Bridge on Hold as Bahrain, Qatar Bicker

June 7, 2010—MANAMA/DOHA—A long-planned \$3 billion bridge linking Bahrain and Qatar has been put on hold and the project team scaled back, sources close to the project said, **amid escalating costs and increased political tension.**

The 40-kilometre causeway linking gas exporter Qatar to the island kingdom of Bahrain was set to play a key role in improving infrastructure connections between members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), **but has been beset by problems.**

The project, first announced in 2001, had already been delayed in 2008 to change the project scope to include trains, and late last year the countries said work would start in the first quarter and be completed by 2015.

That fresh date came and went, however, and the project prospects were further dampened in May, when Bahrain said Qatar's coast guard shot and wounded a Bahraini fisherman who had entered Qatari waters.

‘The project has seen many, many problems **(and there were) also the political tensions,**’ a source close to the project told Reuters, adding ‘the team has been significantly decreased.’

—Reuters (via *Yahoo Business*).

Causeway Project Team ‘Scaled Back’

June 8, 2010—REUTERS/MANAMA—A long-planned \$3 billion bridge linking Bahrain and Qatar has been put on hold and the project team scaled back, sources close to the project said. [...]

The 40-kilometre causeway linking gas exporter Qatar to the island kingdom of Bahrain was set to play a key role in improving infrastructure connections between members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), **but has been beset by problems.**

The project, first announced in 2001, had already been delayed in 2008 to change the project scope to include trains, and late last year the countries said work would start in the first quarter and be completed by 2015.

[...]

‘The project has seen many, many problems ...,’ a source close to the project told Reuters, adding ‘the team has been significantly decreased.’

—*The Gulf Times*.

Bahrain-Qatar Causeway Project on Hold

June 8, 2010—MANAMA/DOHA—A long-planned \$3 billion bridge linking Bahrain and Qatar has been put on hold and the project team scaled back **amid escalating costs**, sources close to the project said. [...]

The 40-kilometre causeway linking gas exporter Qatar to the island kingdom of Bahrain was set to play a key role in improving infrastructure connections between members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). [...]

The project, first announced in 2001, had already been delayed in 2008 to change the project scope to include trains, and late last year the countries said work would start in the first quarter and be completed by 2015.

[...]

—*The Peninsula*.

Form of Presentation



Sources and Loaded Language

Soldiers Sweep Up Saddam's Hit Goons

July 1, 2003—WASHINGTON—U.S. troops captured 319 suspected Ba'ath Party murderers as part of a tough new crackdown on regime diehards yesterday, as Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld forcefully denied that the United States is getting into a “quagmire” in Iraq.

Military officials said U.S. forces carried out 27 raids and also seized more than \$9 million in cash as well as hundreds of machine guns and grenade launchers over the past two days as part of Operation Sidewinder.

The military offensive is a get-tough display of American power aimed at defeating Saddam Hussein's loyalists and outside terrorists responsible for hit-and-run attacks on U.S. troops and sabotage of Iraq's power and water services. But the Iraqi goon squads continued their guerrilla-style campaign yesterday, ambushing a U.S. Avenger air-defense vehicle in the ultra-tense town of Fallujah, wounding Jeremy Little, an Australian-born sound man for NBC news.

The Pentagon says 65 soldiers have been killed and scores more wounded in a series of ambushes and attacks by Saddam loyalists since the war was declared over May 1.

But at a Pentagon briefing, Rumsfeld tried to counter growing criticism in Congress and in the media over the U.S. policy toward Iraq and angrily denied that the U.S. is getting into another Vietnam War quagmire. . . .

Rumsfeld admitted that fighting in Iraq “will go on for some time,” but said “more and more Iraqis” are starting to cooperate with coalition forces in their hunt for Saddam's goon squads.

—*New York Post*.

• The Appeal to Experts

During the 2008 presidential election in the United States, the conservative “Joe the Plumber” did a many television interviews.



🐭 Weasel Words

Head & Shoulders
Intensive Treatment
starts fighting dandruff from
the first wash and *helps*
prevent against associated
itching and redness. With
daily usage, persistent,
severe dandruff *can be* a
thing of the past.

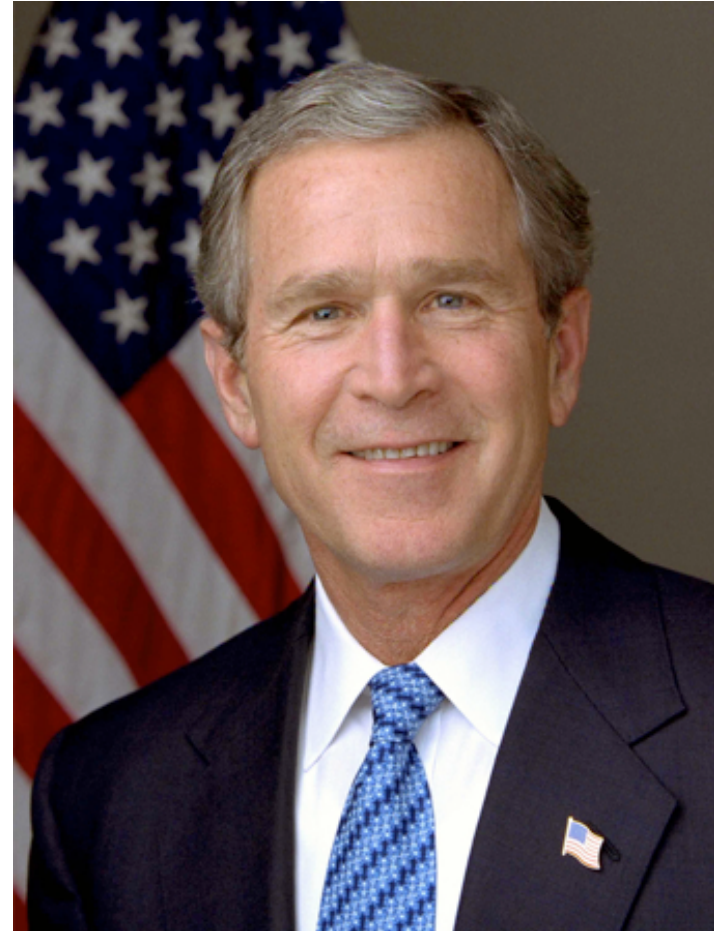


🦊 Weasel Words

Some look at the challenges in Iraq and conclude that the war is lost.

Some say that if you're Muslim you can't be free.

There are *some* really decent people who believe the federal government ought to be the decider of healthcare for all people.



Suspicious abound over WikiLeaks

November 30, 2010—DOHA—The so-called expose by the much-touted whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks involving Iran and three GCC states—Saudi Arabia in the main—do not have many takers in Qatar.

People suspect that the US itself could be behind the so-called large-scale leakage of its “classified” diplomatic communication with some sinister motive.

While it is apparent that Tehran is the main target of these “well-thought-out and conspiratorial” disclosures, three GCC entities known not to have cordial relations with Iran have been dragged into the controversy, people say. . . .

“It’s all deliberate. We can clearly see through the ploy. The idea of the so-called leaks is to further intensify tension between Iran and the GCC,” says prominent Qatari psychologist, Dr Mozah Al Malki.

But she says that since Iranians are present in large numbers in Saudi Arabia and other GCC states, Iran would never attack the Gulf region, she told *The Peninsula* yesterday. What lends more credence to public suspicion about the “leak drama” is the fact that Egypt where the US has been openly “screaming” against official corruption, is out of the entire “expose episode,” say people.

And the fact that the US administration, including the US Embassy in Doha, has instantly and sharply reacted to the entire drama to convince people around the world that the leaks are genuine, creates more suspicion of the whole thing being fake.

“How can you penetrate into the information system of the world’s most powerful nation without the backing of those who matter,” asks another Qatari not wanting to be identified.

So leaking hundreds of thousands of classified US diplomatic messages by a website is impossible without some kind of “influential or official backing” in the US itself, say people. . . .

—*The Peninsula*.

Next Class...

We will have a review for Exam #3, which is Sunday.