Chapter 2: The Construction of Crime News

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. The media is more accurately portrayed as:
   a. window on the world.
   b. a mirror reflecting real life.
   c. Hall of Mirrors.
   d. a glimpse into the world.
   Ans: C
   Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
   Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
   Difficulty Level: Easy

2. All of the following are responsible for sifting through and selecting news items except:
   a. TV news producers.
   b. producers.
   c. bloggers.
   d. politicians.
   Ans: D
   Cognitive Domain: Application
   Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
   Difficulty Level: Medium

3. ______ prioritizes some stories over others.
   a. Framing
   b. Agenda setting
   c. Priming
   d. Public appeal
   Ans: B
   Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
   Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
   Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Framing constitutes all of the following except:
   a. edit words.
   b. adopt particular tones.
   c. prioritize stories.
   d. decide on the visuals.
   Ans: C
   Cognitive Domain: Application
   Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
   Difficulty Level: Medium
5. Individuals in the media often choose events that:
an. convey meanings.
b. offer solutions.
c. provide pictures of the world.
d. all of these.
Ans: D
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Easy

6. ______ select, produce, and present news according to a range of professional
criteria that are used as benchmarks to determine a story’s newsworthiness.
a. producers
b. politicians
c. editors
d. cameramen
Ans: C
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. The main channel in the United Kingdom is known as:
a. PBS.
b. BBC.
c. NBC.
d. CNN.
Ans: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Easy

8. American prisons employ ______ million individuals.
a. 500,000+
b. 700,000+
c. 900,000+
d. 1
Ans: A
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. ______ million people are governed by probation or parole.
a. 2.1
b. 3.6
c. 4.7
10. All of the following crimes were virtually unheard of 25 years ago except:
   a. trolling.
   b. online grooming.
   c. revenge porn.
   d. car accidents.
   Ans: D
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Easy

11. The term “serial killer” did not exist in its current cultural form until an ______ agent properly named it.
   a. CIA
   b. NSA
   c. FBI
   d. DEA
   Ans: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Easy

12. ______ is one of the most salient news values.
   a. Risk
   b. Sex
   c. Children
   d. Violence
   Ans: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
Difficulty Level: Easy

13. The most notorious figure in the history of the British criminal justice system is ______.
   a. Myra Hindley
   b. Ian Brady
   c. Jeffrey Dahmer
   d. John Wayne Gacy
   Ans: A
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
14. ______ has both spatial and cultural dynamics.
   a. Threshold
   b. Proximity
   c. Individualism
   d. Risk
   Ans: B
   Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

15. “Make American Great Again” was the presidential campaign slogan for which of the following presidents?
   a. Donald Trump
   b. Barack Obama
   c. Mitt Romney
   d. Sarah Palin
   Ans: A
   Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

16. Which of the news structures/news values allows news outlets to plan their coverage and deploy their resources in advance?
   a. threshold
   b. risk
   c. predictability
   d. proximity
   Ans: C
   Cognitive Domain: Application

17. Which of the news structures/news values posits that events must be reducible to a minimum number of parts or themes?
   a. threshold
   b. simplification
   c. proximity
   d. risk
   Ans: B
   Cognitive Domain: Application
18. Which of the news structures/news values connects simplification and risk?  
a. proximity  
b. threshold  
c. individualism  
d. predictability  
Ans: C  
Cognitive Domain: Application  
Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium  
Difficulty Level: Medium

19. Which of the news structures/news values posits that the United States is prone to accusations of ethnocentrism?  
a. proximity  
b. threshold  
c. individualism  
d. predictability  
Ans: A  
Cognitive Domain: Application  
Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium  
Difficulty Level: Medium

20. Which of the news structures/news discusses the credence of television news?  
a. violence or conflict  
b. sex  
c. risk  
d. visual spectacle and graphic imagery  
Ans: D  
Cognitive Domain: Application  
Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium  
Difficulty Level: Medium

21. The Clutter Family lived in the state of:  
a. California.  
b. Florida.  
c. Kansas.  
d. Ohio.  
Ans: C  
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge  
Answer Location: Two Examples of Newsworthy Stories Par Excellence  
Difficulty Level: Easy

22. An article in ______ prompted Truman Capote to write a true crime novel.  
a. The Washington Post  
b. The New York Times  
c. The Chicago Tribune  
d. The New York Post
Ans: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Two Examples of Newsworthy Stories Par Excellence
Difficulty Level: Easy

23. ______ was once referred to as a “very fast, but not entirely reliable news agency.”
a. Facebook  
b. Twitter  
c. Snapchat  
d. Instagram
Ans: B
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Difficulty Level: Easy

24. Twitter first garnered newsworthy attention after which of the following events?
a. U.S. Airways landing on the Hudson River  
b. Chinese earthquake in the Sichuan Province  
c. the murder of a female protestor in Tehran  
d. all of these
Ans: A
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Difficulty Level: Easy

25. Truman Capote’s true crime masterpiece, In Cold Blood, was first published in:
b. 1963.  
c. 1966.  
d. 1969.
Ans: C
Cognitive Domain: Knowledge
Answer Location: Two Examples of Newsworthy Stories Par Excellence
Difficulty Level: Easy

True/False

1. The reporting of crime news is not shaped by the mission to entertain.
Ans: F
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. The news is not an accurate representation of the overall picture of crime.
3. Media images are reality.
Ans: F
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Adopting tones is part of a process known as agenda setting.
Ans: F
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Easy

5. Framing is an ideological process.
Ans: T
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Easy

6. The threshold of a potential story does not vary.
Ans: F
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Crime itself is frequently predictable.
Ans: F
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
Difficulty Level: Easy

8. Events do not have to be simple in order to make the news.
Ans: T
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
Difficulty Level: Easy

9. Convicted criminals can also become media “celebrities” by virtue of the notoriety of their crimes.
Ans: T
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
10. Childhood is a social construction.
   Ans: T
   Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
   Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
   Difficulty Level: Easy

11. A binary opposition story is most often that of a story of good versus evil.
   Ans: T
   Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
   Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
   Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Crime trends are very simple and do not take time to unfold.
   Ans: F
   Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
   Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
   Difficulty Level: Easy

13. A citizen journalist typically works at a news agency.
   Ans: F
   Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
   Difficulty Level: Easy

14. The relationship between citizen journalism and mainstream media outlets is symbiotic.
   Ans: T
   Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
   Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Crimes committed by children are typically not newsworthy.
   Ans: F
   Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
   Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
   Difficulty Level: Easy

**Essay**

1. What are the two factors that media images are dependent on?
Ans: The first factor is that the picture of reality is shaped by the production processes of news organizations and the structural determinants of news-making, all of which influence the image of crime. The second factor concerns the assumptions media professionals make about their audience.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Medium

2. What are news values?
Ans: According to the authors, news values are the value judgments that journalists and editors make about the public appeal of a story and also whether it is in the public interest.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: The Construction of Crime News
Difficulty Level: Medium

3. What are the 12 structures and values that shape crime news?
Ans: Threshold, predictability, simplification, individualism, risk, sex, celebrity or high-status persons, proximity, violence or conflict, visual spectacle or graphic imagery, children, and conservative ideology and political diversion.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Why do crimes of a sexual nature distort the overall picture of crime?
Ans: Students answers may vary; however, overreporting should be the main response. According to the authors, various news outlets overreport crimes of a sexual nature, thus distorting the overall picture of crime.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
Difficulty Level: Medium

5. What is the difference between cultural proximity and spatial proximity?
Ans: According to the authors, spatial proximity refers to the geographical “nearness” of an event, while cultural proximity refers to the “relevance” of an event to an audience.
Cognitive Domain: Comprehension
Answer Location: News Values for a New Millennium
Difficulty Level: Medium