

#MyZeitgeist Project – What is Newsworthy?

Newsworthy Vocabulary

When journalists talk about what’s newsworthy, they rely on the five news values below. Think of one example of a big news story from this year and fill out the third column using its information.

1. Timeliness	Immediate, current information and events are newsworthy because they have just recently occurred. It’s news because it’s “new.”	
2. Proximity	Local information and events are newsworthy because they affect the people in our community and region. We care more about things that happen “close to home.”	
3. Conflict and Controversy	When violence strikes or when people argue about actions, events, ideas or policies, we care. Conflict and controversy attract our attention by highlighting problems or differences within the community.	
4. Human Interest	People are interested in other people. Everyone has something to celebrate and something to complain about. We like unusual stories of people who accomplish amazing feats or handle a life crisis because we can identify with them.	
5. Relevance	People are attracted to information that helps them make good decisions. If you like to cook, you find recipes relevant. If you’re looking for a job, business news is relevant. We depend on relevant information that helps us make decisions.	