Lesson: Evolving roles in Journalism

***READ:***

* [The Evolving Role of News on Twitter and Facebook](https://www.journalism.org/2015/07/14/the-evolving-role-of-news-on-twitter-and-facebook/)
* [Eight Simple Rules for Doing Accurate Journalism](https://archives.cjr.org/behind_the_news/eight_simple_rules_for_doing_a.php)
* [Verification Handbook](https://verificationhandbook.com/downloads/verification.handbook.pdf)
  + *“In today’s networked world, people also intentionally spread fake information and rumors as a joke, to drive “likes” and followers, or simply to cause panic. As a result, the work of verification is perhaps most difficult in the very situations when providing accurate information is of utmost importance. In a disaster, whether its cause is natural or human, the risks of inaccuracy are amplified. It can literally be a matter of life and death.” – Verification Handbook*

***Analyze:***

* After taking a look at the readings mentioned above, have students work in small groups to determine the importance of breaking news and verification.
  + What comes first? Breaking or Verification?
  + How has Twitter and Facebook changed the way we look at breaking news?
  + Is it easier to spread false information? What’s more important? Being first or being accurate?

***What did we learn?***

* Take a look at the examples presented in the Verification Handbook.
  + Pick one example and list the process the journalist took to verify the information.
    - Is there anything you would have done differently?
    - How would you help to remain transparent with viewers/readers as you try to verify the information?
      * Would you retweet or repost?
      * How would you explain you are working to verify the information?
        + Write an example of what you would post.

ACTIVITY:

* Working in pairs, develop a plan of how you would handle the tweet referenced in the following page.
  + List the steps you would take in the verification process.
  + Also, describe the importance of working to verify information in this case.
  + How does the verification process impact a news organization’s credibility?

