**Lesson Title:** Blogging about your reporting journey

**Description of the lesson:** Social media can be used to share both verified and unverified information, but it’s also a tool to encourage transparency when reporting. In this lesson, students will create a blog that openly shares their reporting process during a topic of their choice.

**Objectives*by the end of this lessons, students will be able to ..***

* Understand how to organize and present your fact-gathering process during a reporting assignment.
* Explain the role mirror and candle theories play in journalism.

**Procedures:**

Before beginning on your blog, read the following:

* + - [Benefits blogging brings to news outlets](http://niemanreports.org/articles/benefits-blogging-brings-to-news-outlets/)
    - [Blogs and Journalism Need Each Other](http://niemanreports.org/articles/blogs-and-journalism-need-each-other/)
* Launch your blog using WordPress:
  + Follow the instructions to create your blog and pick a title that will correspond to your reporting field. *NOTE: You do not need to purchase a domain name.*
  + [](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgqK-I3mHuM)
* **The content of your blog should include the following:** 
  + Homepage that identifies who you are (headshot included) and the purpose of the blog.
    - What do you hope to accomplish?
      * Trust? Integrity? Transparency? Communication
  + **Use your second post to describe your most recent article/published story and identify the steps you took to research and gather information for your story.** 
    - How did you choose your story? Did a reader submit a topic?
    - What sources did you track down? What challenges did you face?
    - Are there still unanswered questions?
    - Can you open dialogue with the community on the story?
      * Present questions?
      * Ask for feedback?
    - Any thoughts that can be added that didn’t fit in your news report?
  + **Create a third post on an idea that you are thinking about for another story.** 
    - Any questions your readers can help answer or submit?
    - What would they like to know?
    - Why has the idea peaked your interest?