**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.*
	+ 
* **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?