**How Breaking News Unfolds Online**

**Case Study Analysis**

**DIRECTIONS**

Use the chart below and the materials from The Boston Globe’s Pulitzer Prize nomination packet to analyze its breaking news coverage.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of coverage** | **Description of how it was used and the role it played in the breaking news coverage** | **Who contributed to this type of coverage** | **Best examples** |
| Posts on Twitter |  |  |  |
| Liveblog |  |  |  |
| Stories posted to the website |  |  |  |
| Images |  |  |  |
| Video |  |  |  |
| Interactive map |  |  |  |
| Print newspaper |  |  |  |

**Guided reading: Pulitzer Prize nomination letter**

Boston Globe Editor Brian McGrory

**RECALL**

1. What was the timespan of the Globe’s coverage? What events happened over that timespan?

2. Why was the Globe uniquely situated to cover this breaking news story in a way that others weren’t? What were their advantages?

3. What actions did Globe journalists take to inform readers? What tools and methods of coverage did they rely upon?

**COMPREHENSION**

1. McGrory notes that they (the Boston Globe team) “weren’t perfect” but suggests that they provided a valuable service to readers, who relied upon them. What were readers relying upon them for, and what service(s) did they provide? What evidence does McGrory provide?

2. Throughout the nomination letter, McGrory uses numbers and statistics often (e.g. number of site visitors, number of hours and days, number of words in a story, etc). What effect does McGrory’s use of statistics have on the reader and, presumably, the Pulitzer Prize selection committee?

3. McGrory attempts to convey the importance of speed, breadth and depth of coverage in this breaking news situation. Which words or phrases that he uses demonstrate those three aspects of the Globe’s breaking news coverage?

**APPLICATION**

You are an editor on your school news staff, and you want your staff members to be prepared to cover breaking news on your campus. Develop a breaking news protocol using The Boston Globe’s coverage for inspiration. Determine how breaking news should be covered and by whom. You should also consider the appropriate tools for coverage and the key differences between in-time coverage and later coverage.