Slide 1

"REALITY CHECK" CHART FOR CHOOSING PROJECTS

High importance?

Easy? — *Hard?*

Do it!

HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Dangerous perps
Elusive victims
Uncooperative cops
12 student reporters

Tempting
An interesting tale?

Just say NO

Low Importance?

Slide 2

"REALITY CHECK" CHART FOR CHOOSING PROJECTS

High importance?

Easy? — *Hard?*

Do it!

How to move it over there?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Dangerous perps
victims
rative cops
experienced reporters

Tempting
An interesting tale?

Just say NO

Low Importance?

Slide 3

"REALITY CHECK" CHART FOR CHOOSING PROJECTS

High importance?

Easy? — *Hard?*

Early planning
Public records
Call the cavalry

Do it!

How to move it over there?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Dange us perps
victims
rative cops
experienced reporters

Tempting
An interesting tale?

Just say NO

Low Importance?

Slide 4

MEDIA LAW: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
70 students filed public records requests with local law enforcement for sex trafficking arrests

DIGITAL NEWS BUREAU: DATA ANAYSIS & VIZ
1 student

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING: CASE ANALYSIS & FIELD REPORTING
12 students

URBAN AFFAIRS: CASE ANALYSIS & FIELD REPORTING in BALTIMORE
5 students

THE BROTHEL NEXT DOOR
Human trafficking abounds in Maryland, yet few are convicted

The Trafficked: Unseen, Uncounted

The Trap: A Victim's Testimony

Baltimore City: Zero Convictions

The Crime: A Misdemeanor

Langley Park: Unwelcome Neighbors

The Help: Slavery at Home

MEDIA LAW: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
70 students filed public records requests with local law enforcement for sex trafficking arrests

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Each media law student:
- was given a government agency and set of records to request.
- researched the law to support their argument for disclosure
- determined where/how to submit the request, sent it and then followed up frequently by phone and email
- negotiated to lower fees and overcome resistance
- updated status in a Google Drive
- wrote a final memo on the legal issues that and what the records showed.

POLICE RECORDS: AN ADDRESS GOLDMINE

This duplex on a quiet Annapolis cul-de-sac once housed a brothel

Poor and homeless women were sold for sex in this Baltimore warehouse

The townhouse on a leafy, quiet Baltimore street served as a brothel

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Some plusses:
- Hands-on experience using investigative tools and strategies
- Real-time problem solving guidance from experienced faculty
- Valuable resource for school projects and professional projects
- High marks on course evaluations
- Thank you notes from alums for years to come

Some minuses:
- Requires intense, sustained organization by the teacher
- Weak students = gaps in the records
- You can't really penalize students for failing to get records – just for failing to try hard enough.

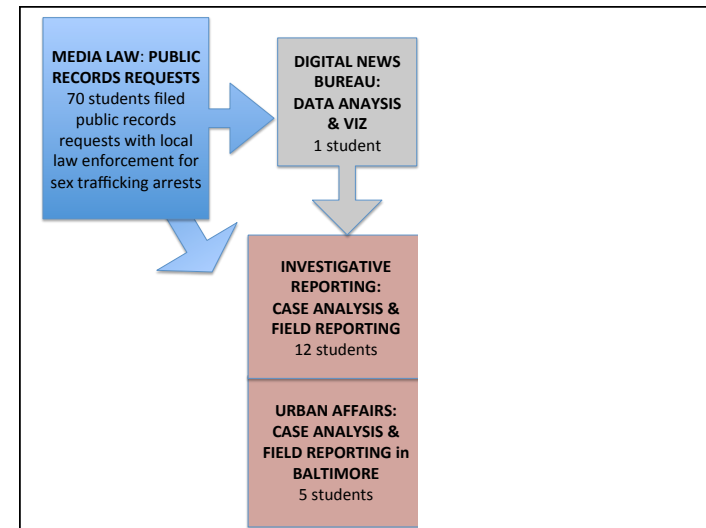A 22-year-old was held against her will in this suburban Columbia hotel

She thought her "escort" job would involve meeting celebrities.

MEDIA LAW: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
70 students filed public records requests with local law enforcement for sex trafficking arrests

→

DIGITAL NEWS BUREAU: DATA ANAYSIS & VIZ
1 student
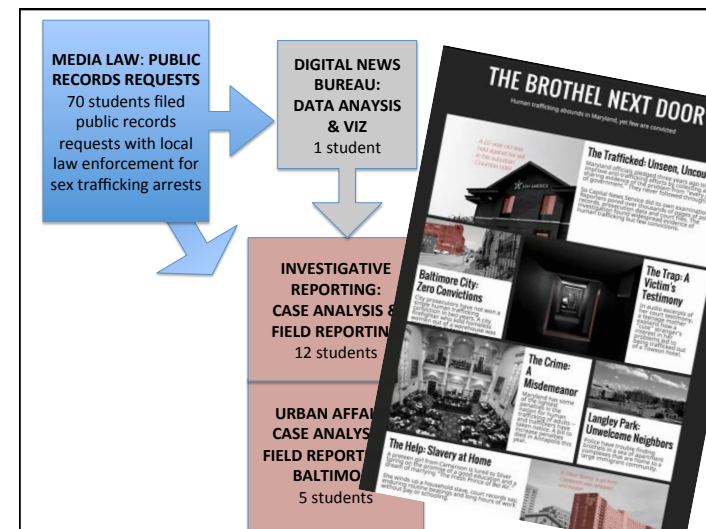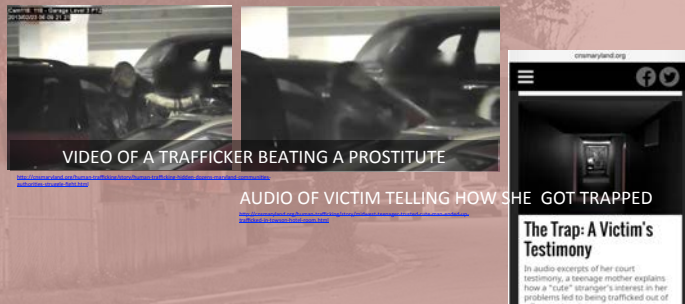
Slide 1:

Our Digital News Bureau "correspondent":

- analyzed a statewide arrest and prosecution database obtained thru FOI
- transformed the statistics into visualizations
- identified trends

Slide 2:

| MEDIA LAW: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
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1 student |

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING: CASE ANALYSIS & FIELD REPORTING
12 students

URBAN AFFAIRS: CASE ANALYSIS & FIELD REPORTING in BALTIMORE
5 students

Slide 3:

Students in the two reporting classes used the law enforcement records, data analysis + their own search through court files to:

- develop case studies
- build a Google Drive database of case characteristics
- identify addresses of trafficking operations for photos
- identify police, attorneys, victims defendants to interview
- find compelling audio and video

COURT FILES: A MULTIMEDIA GOLDMINE

VIDEO OF A TRAFFICKER BEATING A PROSTITUTE

AUDIO OF VICTIM TELLING HOW SHE GOT TRAPPED

The Trap: A Victim's Testimony

In audio excerpts of her court testimony, a teenage mother explains how a "cute" stranger's interest in her problems led to being trafficked out of a Towson hotel.

Slide 4:

| MEDIA LAW: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
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1 student |

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING: CASE ANALYSIS & FIELD REPORTING
12 students

URBAN AFFAIRS: CASE ANALYSIS & FIELD REPORTING BALTIMORE
5 students

THE BROTHEL NEXT DOOR
Human trafficking abounds in Maryland, yet few are convicted

Slide 1 (flowchart):

MEDIA LAW: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
70 students filed public records requests with local law enforcement for sex trafficking arrests

DIGITAL NEWS BUREAU: DATA ANAYSIS & VIZ
1 student

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING: CASE ANALYSIS & FIELD REPORTING
12 students

URBAN AFFAIRS CASE ANALYSIS FIELD REPORTING BALTIMORE
5 students

THE BROTHEL NEXT DOOR

El Tiempo Latino

Retos para combatir la explotación sexual de mujeres en Maryland

Slide 2 (name list):

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
Prof Deb Nelson
Lisa Driscoll
Naomi Eide
Jessica Evans
Katelyn Secret
Alexis Jenkins
Melanie Kozak
Courtney Mabeus
Ana Mulero
Alexis Saunders
Ben Strack
Natalie Tomlin
Fatimah Waseem
BALTIMORE URBAN AFFAIRS REPORTING
Prof Sandy Banisky
Jon Banister
Adam Barry
Mara Bernstein
Hayley Goodman
Carly Morales
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
Prof Sean Mussenden
Jin Kim (data)
James Levin (photo)

MEDIA LAW
Profs Deb Nelson & Diana Huffman
Tongwa Akanji Aka
Carlos Alfaro Rodriguez
Ryan Baillargeon
Adam Barry
Elena Baurkot
Dani Bozzini
Jordan Branch
Connor Brooks
Alexis Brown
Bradleigh Chance
Eli Davis
Sarah Dean
Omar DeBrew
Nicole Dei
Rachel Dooley
Nicole Ebanks
Matthew Ellentuck
Ryan Eskalis
Danielle Frontin
Verna Gibson
Dayna Gillespie
Alex Givan
Benjamin Harris

Bailey Hayek
Bethany Hooper
Andrew Horn
Giovanni Insignares
Jessie Karangu
Kai Keefe
Alexandra Kessel
Renee Klahr
Matt Kubisiak
Kevin LaFrancis
Sheng Chi Lim
Tisha Claudia Lim
Jessica Marquez
Brian Marron
Madison Martin
Alicia McElhaney
Timothy Meehan
Alec Milton
Miles Moore
Carly Morales
Jennifer Munoz
Janelle Netterville
Kaitlin Nizolek
Daisy-Nelly
Ngum Nji

Danielle Ohl
Nicholas Pagliarulo
Alexandra Paonetti
Galen David Rende
Talia Richman
Zoe Sagalow
Lauren Sagl
Lena Salzbank
Javi Scott
Michael Siegel
Justina Nicole Simmons
Theresa Sintetos
Iman Smith
Eric Sumner
Erik Swann
Jacqueline Tanner
Tori Tanner
Nicole Tapiero
Colleen Toohey
Agnes Varghese
Kierstin Vermeulen
Taylor Watford
Daniel Weintraub
Joseph Zimmermann

Slide 3:

SEA LEVEL RISE in Maryland | A PHILIP MERRILL COLLEGE INVESTIGATIVE

Sea levels are rising worldwide, but they are rising two to three times faster in the Chesapeake Bay.

A new analysis by Capital News Service finds that nearly a million Maryland residents live in neighborhoods that could be affected. Some of the state's most iconic places -- Fells Point in Baltimore, Harriet Tubman's birthplace, and Fort McHenry, home of the national anthem -- are at risk.

See In-depth Interactive Map
http://cnsmaryland.org/sealevelrise/

Slide 4:

SEA LEVEL RISE in Maryland
See In-depth Interactive Map
1 ft
3 ft
5 ft

Slide 1 (top-left):

ENGINEERING SCHOOL:
SLR DATA MAPPING
1 student

DIGITAL NEWS BUREAU:
CENSUS DATA
DATA VIZ
WEB DESIGN
5 students

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING:
FIELD REPORTING
10 students

URBAN AFFAIRS:
FIELD REPORTING in BALTIMORE
10 students

ONLINE VIDEO:
PROFILES
5 students

SEA LEVEL RISE
in Maryland
A PHILIP MERRILL COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM INVESTIGATIVE PROJECT

See In-depth Interactive Map

1 ft

What's at risk?

Community | Real Estate | History | Infrastructure | Tourism

Slide 2 (top-right):
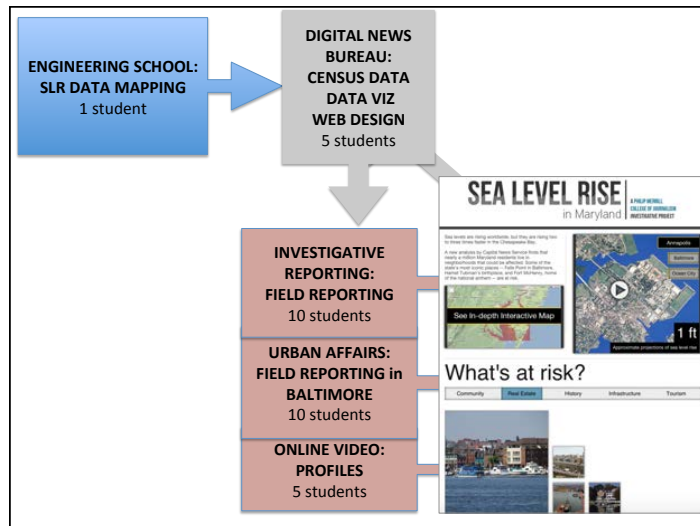
GENERAL TIPS

Picking the story: For team projects, pick a topic that affects or interests students. Whether team or individual projects, consider student skill level, difficulty, time, importance, budget.

Skill training: Keep lectures brief and focused on one skill each class. Have them use it to advance the story immediately, preferably during class time when you can provide real-time advice and feedback.

Organization: Before each class, have them upload all interview notes and documents to their own folder in Google Drive and share with you.

Writing: Have them write **footnoted*** stories/scripts early & often. Let them see how dramatically their first story changes as they dig deeper.

*Footnotes help:
- reporters keep track of where they got their information
- you assess the reliability of their information
- the fact checker determine accuracy and spot errors

Footnotes should have links to internet sources + Google Drive documents and notes. Info for human sources: phone, email, link to notes, bio.

Slide 3 (bottom-left):

*Footnotes help:
- reporters keep track of where they got their information
- you assess the reliability of their information
- the fact checker determine accuracy and spot errors

Footnotes should have links to internet sources + Google Drive documents and notes. Info from human sources should include name, phone number and email address.

Deadline: Set the "final" story deadline *at least* a month before the last class. Reserve the last month for polish, fact check, data viz, production.

Fact check: Assign each student to do a word-by-word fact check of another student's story – and give them a grade. I tell the fact-checker and writer that they will get an F as 50% of their grade for the semester if there is an error in the final published version. No penalty if they find the error before publication – to encourage them to be vigorous.

Slide 4 (bottom-right):

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