

HANDOUT 3: Signal words in the excerpt

Work Style

Three striking differences, all significant and with a substantial effect size, may be seen in the working conditions and work styles of male and female reporters described in Table 2. Female reporters face significantly higher time pressures, producing a greater proportion of their items (52 percent compared with 41 percent) within one hour or less. Obviously, news cycles differ from one medium to another,⁵ but the matched sample—a careful comparison of male and female reporters in the same medium—guarantees that the effect is beyond media type differences. Furthermore, female journalists tend to initiate contacts with their news sources more often than male reporters in the news-gathering phase, during which they obtain the building blocks for their stories. Third, female journalists tend to perform significantly less work from the newsroom, as reported in personal interviews. Whether this reflects accelerated fragmentation and individuation of news work (Deuze 2009), reluctance to encounter the macho atmosphere of many newsrooms (Beam and Di Cicco 2010; Lachover 2005) or preference to be closer to their homes (a possibility that was not confirmed in the personal interviews), relative distance from the newsroom may exact two interconnected tolls: (1) organizational—female journalists may find it more difficult to develop close and informal relationships with superiors and decision makers; and (2) practical—female journalists may systematically miss preferred and prestigious assignments, as described in a former study (Löfgren Nilsson 2010) only because these tend to pop up without prior notice and are assigned instantly to journalists present around the newsroom, a majority of whom are usually men.

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