

JRM365

Freedom of the press around the world

When: Due Thursday, Nov. 10. Worth 75 points. I will look at drafts until 8 p.m. Nov. 8

What: A five- to seven-page paper that examines political, social, cultural, economic, geographic and other factors of a country to determine the following:

- the most significant barriers to media development
- the press freedom concept that best fits the country
- human rights record
- potential for globalization
- state of mass media and electronic media in the country: troubled or flourishing. Why? Governmental influence or business problems?

The barriers to media development are physical/geographic, cultural, political/government, economic, technological, and quality/availability of media.

For your paper, you should concentrate on the **one or two barriers** that you believe make the biggest impact on that country.

The press freedom concepts include authoritarian/communist, developmental, Western and revolutionary. These concepts are strung along a continuum. You must choose the one that best fits your country.

How: You'll use library resources and the Internet to find recent information on your country from U.S. government, the United Nations and various human rights organization sources. You also will use sources to find examples of that country's media.

What II: What your paper should include:

- A narrative description of the country in your own words
- Its record on freedom of the press issues. This should be in your own words, not in the terms from a document.
- An analysis of the factors that you believe most contribute to its record on human rights, media development and freedom of the press. This analysis should include examples, both from the various sources that you use and from the country's media itself. These can be positive factors or negative factors.
- What you think the future holds for this country and why in terms of globalization
- At least three sources. In the paper, you will include attribution as part of a sentence. For example, According to the State Department's report on Carolland,. At the end of the paper, include a list of the sources, including URLs. No Wikipedia. **You MUST use sources outlined on Oct. 27. If you find another source, you must check with me first.**
- The paper should have the introduction/thesis, evidence to back up that thesis and a conclusion.

Questions to consider:

You have two main tasks: Locate the country along the press concepts continuum – from authoritarian to revolutionary – and explain why the country fits that placement. The second is to identify the main barriers to media development and human rights. Your main thesis statement should be something along the lines of:

Carolland, a small country dependent on tourism and book publishing, is one of the freest countries in the world. Its strong tradition of democracy and human rights, high literacy rate and booming market economy are a perfect fit for the Western press concept. Carolland is poised to do well in Friedman's flat world. Its island location does pose some problems in media development, but the island has a good system of roads and well-developed technology.

Here are some questions to find answers for to discover the barriers to media development and the country's press concept.

- What is the country's system of government? How long has that government been in place? Are there elections and functioning political parties?
- What is the country's population? What are its natural resources?
- Where is the country in the world and what impact does the location have on it – politically, economically and culturally?
- What are the dominant cultural characteristics of the country and what impact do those characteristics have on the country's approach to human rights and freedom of the press? How diverse is the country's population? What is the literacy rate? Is there a large difference between men and women in literacy rates?
- How is the country faring economically? Places to look are the inflation rate, the unemployment rate and the GDP per capita.
- What types of media are there in the country? Newspapers? Television stations? Radio stations? Who controls the media? What impact does technology in the form of satellites, cable and Internet have on the country? How many cell phones? How many computers? Who owns the media? How free is the Internet?
- What kinds of human rights violations are there in the country? What controls are there on press freedom? Use examples in your paper. What press concept does this country illustrate?
- What do you think the future holds for this country in terms of human rights, press freedom and globalization? Why do you make that assessment?