The press and the media

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

ADVANCED | C1

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each advanced media concept with its meaning.

1 agenda-setting	____	a protection allowing reporters to resist revealing confidential sources
2 framing effect	____	b influence created by how information is selected and presented
3 gatekeeping	____	c legal restriction preventing publication in advance
4 source capture	____	d scrutiny focused on institutions and holders of power
5 false balance	____	e control over which information enters the public news flow
6 prior restraint	____	f reduction in lawful reporting caused by fear of punishment
7 chilling effect	____	g diversity of independent outlets, viewpoints and ownership
8 media pluralism	____	h media influence over which issues audiences regard as important
9 journalistic privilege	____	i dependence on official or powerful sources that weakens scrutiny
10 accountability journalism	____	j presenting unequal claims as if they had equal evidential support

2 Complete the media-accountability collocations.

balance | **chilling** | **editorial** | **framing** | **pluralism** | **restraint** | **source** | **watchdog**

1 exercise an institutional _____ role

2 preserve media _____

3 avoid false _____

4 examine a _____ effect

5 resist prior _____

6 protect _____ confidentiality

7 preserve _____ independence

8 create a _____ effect

3 Choose the concept that best captures the distinction.

1 Repeated coverage makes one issue seem most important: *agenda-setting / framing*.

2 Word choice changes interpretation without changing facts: *framing effect / gatekeeping*.

3 Editors decide which events become news: *gatekeeping / pluralism*.

4 Official access makes reporters dependent on government sources: *source capture / privilege*.

5 A fringe claim receives equal space to strong evidence: *false balance / agenda-setting*.

6 Fear of litigation discourages legitimate investigation: *chilling effect / prior restraint*.

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4 Complete the media-governance review with terms from the box.

accountability journalism | agenda-setting | chilling effect | false balance | framing effect | gatekeeping | journalistic privilege | media pluralism | prior restraint | source capture

The review recognises the media's **1** _____ power and asks how **2** _____ shapes interpretation. Transparent **3** _____ criteria should explain why some stories lead. Ownership diversity supports **4** _____, while funding models must limit **5** _____. Strong **6** _____ protects confidential informants and enables **7** _____. Courts should avoid **8** _____ and remedies that create a **9** _____. Scientific coverage must also avoid **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions concisely.

Reporting an uncertain public-health risk

Early studies suggested a possible risk, but estimates varied and causal evidence was incomplete. Some outlets used alarming headlines, while others quoted only officials who favoured reassurance. A specialist newsroom reported absolute as well as relative risk, described study limitations and updated the article as evidence changed. It avoided pairing every expert with an unsupported opponent merely for symmetry. Editors also disclosed the reporter's previous fellowship at a research institute mentioned in the story.

1 What was uncertain in the early evidence? _____

2 How did some outlets distort the issue? _____

3 Name two practices used by the specialist newsroom. _____

4 Why did the article change over time? _____

5 What form of false balance was avoided? _____

6 Why was the fellowship disclosed? _____

6 Paraphrase using the expression in capitals.

1 Coverage influenced which issue people prioritised. **AGENDA** ___

2 Presentation altered how readers interpreted the facts. **FRAMING** ___

3 Fear of punishment discouraged lawful reporting. **CHILLING** ___

4 The outlet scrutinised institutions holding power. **ACCOUNTABILITY** ___

OVER TO YOU

Write a **160-190 word** editorial policy for reporting a contested, uncertain issue. Address evidence, framing, source diversity, conflicts, corrections, false balance, independence and accountability.

[ ] Use at least ten target terms or collocations. [ ] Calibrate claims to evidence. [ ] Define transparent safeguards.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Advanced media concepts

1 **h** 2 **b** 3 **e** 4 **i** 5 **j** 6 **c** 7 **f** 8 **g** 9 **a** 10 **d**

2 Media-accountability collocations

1 **watchdog** 2 **pluralism** 3 **balance** 4 **framing** 5 **restraint** 6 **source** 7 **editorial** 8 **chilling**

3 Conceptual distinctions

1 **agenda-setting** 2 **framing effect** 3 **gatekeeping**
4 **source capture** 5 **false balance** 6 **chilling effect**

4 Media-governance review

1 **agenda-setting** 2 **framing effect** 3 **gatekeeping** 4 **media pluralism** 5 **source capture**
6 **journalistic privilege** 7 **accountability journalism** 8 **prior restraint** 9 **chilling effect** 10 **false balance**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Risk estimates and causality. 2 Alarmist framing or reliance only on reassuring officials. 3 Absolute risk, limitations or updates.
4 Evidence changed. 5 Pairing experts with unsupported opponents. 6 To disclose a potential conflict.

6 Paraphrasing - possible answers

1 The coverage had an **agenda-setting** effect. 2 This was a **framing effect**. 3 There was a **chilling effect**. 4 The outlet practised **accountability journalism**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check evidential calibration, pluralism, disclosure, corrections and accountability.