

investigative reporting



1. What is investigative journalism?

Investigative journalism is finding, reporting and presenting news which other people try to hide. It is very similar to standard news reporting, except that the people at the centre of the story will usually not help you and may even try to stop you doing your job.

The job of journalists is to let people know what is going on in the community, the society and the world around them. Journalists do this by finding facts and telling them to their readers or listeners.

Investigative journalism shine light on issues that demand **public accountability**, such as **abuses** of power, corruption, or crime.

To do so, **Investigative journalists** must identify potential problems, conduct in-depth research, pursue leads, interview people in power and those who have been wronged, **fact-check**, and adhere to ethical reporting guidelines.

Investigative journalism isn't limited to print newspapers. Investigative journalists also may create interactive digital elements for the internet, post to social media channels, do audio reporting through podcasts, or appear on camera

2. investigative reporting

While definitions of investigative reporting vary, among professional journalism

groups there is broad agreement of its major components: **systematic**, in-depth,

and original research and reporting, often involving the unearthing of secrets. Others note that its practice often involves heavy use of public records and data, with a focus on **social justice** and accountability.



There are several reasons why societies need **investigative reporting**. They include:

- People have a right to know about the society in which they live. They have a right to know about decisions which may affect them, even if people in power want to keep them secret.
- People in power - whether in government, the world of commerce, or any other group in society - can abuse that power. They can be corrupt, steal money, break laws and do all sorts of things which harm other people. They might just be incompetent and unable to do their job properly. They will usually try to keep this knowledge secret. Journalists try to expose such abuse.
- Journalists also have a duty to watch how well people in power perform **their jobs, especially those who have been elected to public office**

3. Investigative Journalists



They work on a story-by-story basis, and so the daily tasks associated with their job will change depending on where in the investigative cycle they are. Broadly speaking, an Investigative Journalist will be expected to:

- Keep across the news agenda to identify any potential stories
- Build relationships with people who may offer sources of information
- Search public records and company accounts to identify **discrepancies or falsehoods**
- Go undercover in organisations to get to the root of the story

4. What Skills Do I Need?

- Investigative Journalists are intensely curious, with a strong desire to know the truth. They are determined to get to the heart of a story.
- Investigative Journalists must stay calm under pressure – particularly undercover when unexpected things can happen.
- Investigative Journalists need strong interpersonal skills, as they need to build relationships with sources.
- Investigative Journalists need to be confident communicators with strong writing skills, as they write their own scripts

Discussion

- What is the purpose of investigative journalism?

- What kind of issues does investigative journalism deal with?
- Why is investigative journalism deep?
- What are the components of investigative journalism? Explain
- Why does society need investigation?

Translation

- Translate to Arabic the bold words
- Translate to arabic :

سوء استعمال السلطة- الحقائق المخفية- الأدلية- مصادر موثوقة- القانون- الشرعية

Give the names of the following verbs

To investigate

To correct.....

To account.....

To measure.....

To perform.....

To produce.....

To verify.....

Writing task

Write a paragraph about what you learned today about investigative journalism.

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