

Short Paper: news and claims to past authority

30 points

3-5 pages, all references must be provided with citations in either MLA or Chicago Style

Due Friday March 4, by class time

Find a piece of current news media that deals with Islam/Muslims and refers to the authority of the past. You are looking for something that answers the “why question” by appealing to the past as explanation.

Treat the whole piece like it is making an argument. What is that argument?

- 1) In a heading, clearly identify the media: where/when produced and by whom
- 2) Give a one-paragraph concise summary of the piece, including relevant context, target audience, multimedia components, etc.
- 3) Analyze what the media piece is really saying, including how it uses the past. Each of your points should be **supported by the actual wording/content** of the media. Your analysis should address the following questions:
 - a) What is the past? (The Qur’an? The Prophet? Important historical figures and events? “Tradition”?)
 - b) How is the past used to construct the argument of the piece? Treat all visual/audio components as part of the argument and include them in your analysis.
 - c) Who is the audience of the piece, and how is this argument meant to appeal to them?

The focus of your paper is NOT the subject or content of the news piece. Do not argue with it. You are not trying to show it is wrong or biased. You’re trying to show how it is constructed.