FOLLOW THE FACTS!
Hi! We’re glad to have you on board as a member of the news team here at The NOLA Post, proudly serving New Orleans, Louisiana.

Your five-person team includes: a News Editor, two national reporters (a Government Reporter and an Opinion Reporter), and two local reporters (a Lifestyle Reporter and a Metro Reporter).

Here’s what you need to know about your upcoming assignment:

Two children died recently from an unknown illness in St. Bernard Parish, a county in the greater New Orleans area of Louisiana. They came to the hospital with fever, headache, nausea, and hallucinations. The New Orleans community is concerned about what caused these deaths. The public wants information and expects the newspaper to provide the facts.

At the same time, New Orleans is under a tropical storm watch. Tropical Storm Teddy is approaching Florida. Its path is predicted to stay in the Florida Panhandle. The outer edge is predicted to hit New Orleans, bringing some wind and rain but not much damage.

At the upcoming meeting at the news office to address these current events, you need to: (1) gather information, (2) report on the recent deaths described above and surrounding events, and (3) keep an eye on Tropical Storm Teddy.

Gathering information from good sources is KEY to getting an accurate story about this out quickly. As part of your investigation, you will do research. You need to decide whom to contact for information, what questions to ask, and how to ask your questions.
Remember what we stand for. The NOLA Post is committed to sharing diverse voices that are sometimes overlooked by major institutions. As you investigate, make sure that you’re talking to members of the community with personal experience. You’ll need their points of view as well as facts from trustworthy organizations.

You will be choosing longer articles to post for the paper’s online and print editions. You also will post chirps on social media. You can post your own chirps at any time you’d like.

You want the public to trust The NOLA Post. Keep an eye on the trust meter as you post articles and chirps to see how you’re doing.

You need to be accurate in your reporting. The public counts on you to be right because they act on what you tell them. Good luck!

P.S. I’ve attached a few documents with more information on your team, your role for this assignment, and a tool to help you check the quality of your sources. Read them before your team meeting and be sure to also watch this trailer and tutorial before the news office meeting begins.

LOUISE ARMSTRONG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE NOLA POST

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REMINDER:

- Watch the Follow the Facts trailer.
- Watch the IThrive Sim Platform tutorial.
While you play, you should talk out loud and collaborate with your news team. You will decide together what information to collect and what news to post. Your news posts will take the form of social media chirps and news articles.

The News Editor will oversee the Reporters on the news team. This player will help you make sure you are evaluating your sources and posting accurate, balanced news.

The Reporters will work in groups of two to decide which sources to contact for information.

You, the Opinion Reporter, will work with the Government Reporter. The two of you will focus on what’s happening nationally.

The Lifestyle and Metro Reporters will work together. They will focus on what’s happening locally.

All members of the news team will talk to each other to share the information they have received. Together, you all will decide what to post as news.

The managing editor will respond to your news posts using the Messages on the Sim platform. The public will respond using Chirp and the News Feed.

Watch how your news postings affect the Public Trust Meter. Does the public trust your news team? If not, you’ll need to work differently.
You are the **OPINION REPORTER** for the **NOLA Post**. You present your opinion on how issues affect the New Orleans community. You research the topics you write about. You also write from the perspective of how people will feel about the topics. The News Editor oversees your work. Your partner for this assignment is the Government Reporter.

With the Government Reporter, you will investigate cases of the **mysterious illness nationwide**. You will share your findings with the news team. You will help the team decide what to publish for your readers in New Orleans.

You are especially concerned that news in New Orleans does not focus enough on perspectives within the **African-American community**. This illness is affecting this community in New Orleans, so make sure to focus on this in your reporting.

Being assigned to the news team (instead of the opinion team) is new for you. You are excited to work on a more national scale to get a story.

**Remember:** You want the public to trust the **NOLA Post**. Keep an eye on the trust meter as you post articles and social media.

**Bio:** You want to take your talents to a more national presence in a larger market. You have lived in New Orleans your whole life, but you want to move to another city. You feel it’s time for a change. Making a name for yourself is important. You want to get the attention of papers in other big cities.
# THE C.R.A.A.P. TEST: A TOOL FOR EVALUATING THE QUALITY OF YOUR SOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>MAIN QUESTION</th>
<th>CHECKLIST</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>Is it timely?</td>
<td>□ The information matches the timing of the event in question&lt;br&gt; □ If it’s important that it’s up-to-the-minute, it’s been updated recently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance</td>
<td>Does it answer my question?</td>
<td>□ The information helps me answer my question; it’s directly related&lt;br&gt; □ I know whether the information is fact or opinion, and it matches my needs&lt;br&gt; □ My audience needs or will care about this information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>Does it come from a reputable, knowledgeable source?</td>
<td>□ It’s clear who is providing this information (I know who the author, publisher, speaker, etc. is)&lt;br&gt; □ The source has the right background, experience, and knowledge to provide this information&lt;br&gt; □ I have good reasons to trust the source’s reputation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>Is it factual and correct?</td>
<td>□ The information is based in fact, not just opinion (unless it’s opinion I need)&lt;br&gt; □ I can confirm the information by looking at another authoritative source&lt;br&gt; □ The information seems objective and credible (believable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>Why was it written or shared?</td>
<td>□ The information is meant to document or inform&lt;br&gt; □ The source is not just trying to sell me something or to persuade, entertain, or provoke me&lt;br&gt; □ The source is providing objective, unbiased information, or it’s their opinion I need&lt;br&gt; □ If the source is motivated by money or ownership by another organization, I know about it and use that knowledge to help me determine the value of their information</td>
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**This tool is an adaptation of the C.R.A.A.P. Test developed by the Meriam Library at California State University, Chico.**
TO DO LIST

- POSSIBLE LEADS?
  - WATCH THE FOLLOW THE FACTS TRAILER.
  - WHO HAS THE ANSWERS?
  - WATCH THE ITHRIVE SIM TUTORIAL.
  - COMPLETE THE 'SNAPSHOT OF TWO COMMUNITIES' ACTIVITY.
  - COMPLETE THE ROLE REFLECTION EXCERCISE.