

Taller: ¿Noticia, Opinión o Propaganda?

Note for Teachers:

This is a workshop entirely **in Spanish** for intermediate and advanced level undergraduate Spanish students. It can also be used for students of history, journalism or current events who have a high level of Spanish proficiency. They will be asked to read and comment on selected primary source material relating to the **Civil War in El Salvador (1980-1992)** and the assassination of **Archbishop Oscar Romero**. The workshop also includes images, music and a brief academic article (pdf) on journalistic integrity. A **bibliography** is provided with sources and options for further reading.

The **objectives** of this workshop are threefold. The students will have an opportunity to:

1. Practice listening, reading and writing skills with authentic, regionally sourced materials.
2. Familiarize themselves with the navigation process using primary sourced digital materials currently available through UT Libraries for future research.
3. Correctly apply analytical skills regarding facts, inferences and opinions when faced with sources from divergent perspectives, presuppositions and worldviews. The hope is not that students will necessarily change their point of view, but that they will, at least, become aware of the ideological limitations of a monolithic ideological orientation.

Skills: Students will navigate a web page, move offsite to the UT Libraries LADI archives, and read selected articles. They will be asked to assess the articles they read, and the kind of publications where those articles are found, according to determined critical criteria. They will be asked to write their conclusions in Spanish to share with a group, and/or hand in for correction.

In addition, students will become familiar with a moment in recent history, probably before they were born, that has a significant impact on their lives today. The critical tools exercised in this workshop are also applicable to a critical understanding of contemporary local news sources.

Time: The basic workshop should take about 45 minutes. If students work in small groups, they should be asked to speak in Spanish, and allow for an extra 15 minutes to accommodate internal discussion. Large group comments and questions might take another 20 minutes. Longer discussions, supplemental reading and optional exercises can take considerably more time.

Comments:

1. Attention is given to electronic source material and how to cite it.
2. The Latin American Digital Initiative (LADI) at UT Libraries also has other useful material, including audio files from *Radio Venceremos*. See www.ladi.lib.utexas.edu.

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