How do they know that?
A simple but powerful question for evaluating the quality of the news you read.

Sources & Evidence
When a journalist makes a claim, ask yourself, "how do they know that?"

- Ways journalists demonstrate they know something:
  - They cite multiple sources
  - Those sources are people who know something about the situation or news event
    - If the sources are anonymous, the journalist explains why
  - The journalist was present at the event they are reporting on
  - The evidence may be a document - a report, email, memo, study, among others. See if you can independently verify the contents of the document, or if the journalist provides a link.

- Other ways to evaluate sources and evidence:

Expertise
When a journalist interviews an expert, ask yourself, "how do they know that?"

- Questions to ask yourself about experts:
  - Do they have demonstrated expertise in the area they are talking about? This can be expertise related to an advanced degree (a professor or researcher), or their job (a diplomat, a city employee, someone who works in a relevant field).
  - What evidence of their expertise can you find?
  - Do they speak for themselves, or on behalf of another person or organization? Are they currently employed by a company, political entity or other group/person with an interest in the story?

- Other ways to evaluate expertise:

Eye-witnesses
When you read eyewitness accounts, or view citizen-recorded videos of an event, ask yourself, "how do they know that?"

- Questions to ask yourself about eye-witnesses:
  - Where they themselves present at the event?
  - How long ago did the event happen? Passage of time can affect memories
  - Does the eyewitness provide corroborating evidence, like photos, or videos to back up their account?
  - If a video, did they film the video themselves, or are they re-posting someone else's work?

- Other ways to evaluate eye-witnesses:
Your Turn

The news article provided includes sources and evidence, interviews with experts and eyewitness accounts.

Read the article keeping the question “how do they know that?” in mind.

1. Where was the journalist successful in demonstrating how they know what they know? Record some positive examples below, and discuss with your group:

2. Where were some areas where your group wasn’t convinced? What other sources, evidence, experts or eyewitnesses would you like to see? Record some examples below and discuss with your group: