

Lee H. Igel, PhD

**“You Build from the
Outer Edges
and
Go Step by Step”**

Teaching Research & *All the President's Men*

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Of the 1st Priority: “Pure” v. “Applied”

research process over research itself?

or

research itself over research process?

*How can we find the
“middle ground”
that engages
students in both
form and function at
the same time?*

REDFORD/HOFFMAN

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN

“It changes names, alters facts, eliminates crucial historical figures and mythologizes others. It over-glamorizes reporting, oversimplifies editing and makes power appear the only proper subject for a newsman’s pen. But 20 years after Watergate, *All the President’s Men* remains the best film ever made about the craft of journalism and an eerily accurate evocation of the mood and psychology—if not the details—of that byzantine presidential deceit and its unmasking.”

—K. Ringle, “Journalism’s Finest 2 Hours and 16 Minutes”/*The Washington Post*/06.14.1992

“a detective story
for an audience
that already knew
‘who done it’”

—The Woodward and Bernstein Watergate Papers
archive

“What is the purpose of the activity?”

“Who is the audience and what do they value?”

“What is the plan?”

“What are the intended results?”

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The film—inspired by the Woodward and Bernstein text of the same title—is usually relegated to specific lessons in *investigative journalism*.

But this convention dismisses and limits the fact that the film offers a rich perspective into the full range of *research methods* and their application to the social sciences.

“What is the purpose of the activity?”

“Who is the audience and what do they value?”

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Students:

**Undergraduate,
Graduate**

Understand their formative-years ...

what they learned,

what they witnessed,

what they experienced.

“What is the purpose of the activity?”

“Who is the audience and what do they value?”

“What is the plan?”

“What are the intended results?”

“What is the plan?”

view the film,

discuss the film

“What is the plan?”

view the film,

discuss the film

What did you see?
What was going on?

...courthouse, newsroom,
Library of Congress,
government directories,
telephone directories,
telephone interviews,
in-person interviews ...

Ben Bradlee: Bernstein, are you sure on this story?

Carl Bernstein: Absolutely.

Ben Bradlee: Woodward?

Carl Bernstein: I'm sure.

Ben Bradlee: I'm not. It still seems thin.

Howard Simons: Get another source.

Bob Woodward: **The story is dry. All we've got are pieces. We can't seem to figure out what the puzzle is supposed to look like ...**

"Deep Throat": ***Follow the money.***

Bob Woodward: **What do you mean? Where?**

"Deep Throat": ***Oh, I can't tell you that.***

Bob Woodward: **But you could tell me that.**

"Deep Throat": ***No, I have to do this my way. You tell me what you know, and I'll confirm. I'll keep you in the right direction if I can, but that's all. Just ... follow the money.***

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investigative reporting as

research methods

in actuality,

in action

Introduction
Literature Review
Methodology
Data Collection & Analysis
Conclusions (& Recommendations)

Research was
integral to the origin
and unfolding of the
Watergate scandal.

Corruption ...

... in research

... in government & society

How do we decide
what constitutes
corruption?

How do we decide
what constitutes
ethical behavior?

**Did Woodward & Bernstein
engage in ethical behavior?**

**Did Nixon & his associates
engage in ethical behavior?**

“ .. there still was no explanation as to why the five suspects might have attempted to bug Democratic headquarters in the Watergate at 2600 Virginia Ave., NW ..”

—B. Woodward & C. Bernstein, “GOP Security Aide Among 5 Arrested in Bugging Affair”/ *The Washington Post*/06.19.1972

“The suspects had extensive photographic equipment and some electronic surveillance instruments capable of intercepting both regular conversation and telephone communication.”

—B. Woodward & C. Bernstein, “GOP Security Aide Among 5 Arrested in Bugging Affair”/ *The Washington Post*/06.19.1972

“I played by the
rules of politics
as I found them.”

—President Richard M. Nixon

“When the
President does it,
that means that
it’s not illegal.”

—President Richard M. Nixon

***What capacities does
a person bring to
decision-making? ...***

***What limitations
hamper a person's
judgment?***

“5 Ever-Present Limitations”:

- 1) within the limits of permissibility;**
- 2) within the limits of available resources;**
- 3) within the limits of available time;**
- 4) within the limits of previous commitments;**
- 5) within the limits of available information.**

—Theodore C. Sorensen,
Decision-making in the White House