Deconstructing TV News: GUNS ON CAMPUS

Please view the CNN story on Blackboard.

(Here’s a link as well: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/gqwhmtu1l0lovby/campusguns.mp4?dl=0>)

Then answer the following questions on a separate (double-spaced please) page.

1. What are the main claims of the story? Are the key questions answered? Who? What?

When? Where? Why? And How?

1. Does the lead support the main point of the story? The reporter opens the piece saying, "What would it take to stop the next campus gunman? The answer for a growing number of students is this" -- and then there is a shot of a student cocking a gun in his car. What evidence does the reporter present to back up the claim of a growing movement among students to carry guns?
2. Make a list of all the evidence that is verified and asserted. The reporter says, "Ohio is one of eight states currently considering allowing guns on campus, but supporters know they have an uphill battle." What evidence does the reporter present to back up the claim that supporters know they have an uphill battle? Look at the ratio and assess the evidence overall.
3. Make a list of sources: How many are there? Are they named? Are they authoritative? Are they independent? Do they verify?
4. Does the reporter open the freezer or does the reporter make inferences?
5. Does the reporter make her work transparent?
6. Does the reporter place the story in context?
7. Does the reporter allow emotional elements to cloud or override the facts? Does the reporter use judgmental language?
8. Does the reporter offer more than one point of view?
9. ls the story fair and free of bias? Are there any opinion neighborhood markers?
10. Based on this report, what should a news consumer conclude about how popular the movement to allow guns on campus is among students and what are its chances for success? Are there any unanswered questions?

ARENA (voice-over): What will it take to stop the next campus gunman? The answer for a growing number of students is this ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Would you rather just sit there and cower underneath a desk while someone executes you, or would you rather have a chance to defend your life? That's what it really boils down.

ARENA: Michael Footcraft is a student in Ohio. The state is at least one of eight that is considering allowing guns on campus. He's licensed to carry a concealed weapon on the street but can't bring it to school.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: To me it makes no sense that I can defend myself legally over there but I'm a felon if I step on the grass over here.

ARENA: Utah, Colorado and Virginia allow guns on campus, though it is up to officials to set the policy.

PROF. RON HOLT, WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY: I see it as a sort of life insurance policy.

ARENA: Still most students aren't convinced. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think it's completely absurd.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It shocks me, it kind of scares me a little bit. ARENA: Since 1966 there have been about a dozen campus shootings. As tragic as they were, experts contend that campuses are still among the safest places for young adults.

POLICE CHIEF GENE FERRARA, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI: I don't think

the answer to bullets flying is to send more bullets flying.

ARENA: University of Cincinnati security chief Gene Ferrara thinks the idea is a recipe for disaster.

FERRARA: Someone is shooting. The officer responds to the scene and there's a person with a gun in their hand. Is that the bad guy or is that a citizen who is trying to help out?

ARENA: But Michael Footcraft says he won't give up.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I do see in the future eventually, it might take 10 or 15 years for to it happen, but people will be able to defend their lives on

campus. Kelli Arena CNN (END VIDEOTAPE)