This assignment gives students an opportunity to consider the cultural context of mass media, news media production, consumption, and interpretation. Media, including social media, can provide insight into current cultural phenomena.

For this assignment, please choose a country or cultural area and focus on current news and social media related to an anthropological topic of your choosing (e.g. religion, kinship, childhood).

First, scan various media sources (newspaper, radio, social media). Summarize trends in these sources related to your topic. For example, if you have chosen to focus on health, you could summarize one current media topic in health, such as COVID-19. Describe any issues with these media reports, and/or describe what they did well. Describe the cultural context of these reports. I would recommend following the procedures below:

* Scan current media reports or posts related to your topic.
* Describe current trends in these reports, and focus on one specific issue. For example, if you focus on COVID-19, describe just one aspect of that topic such as wearing masks.
* Analyze these media. Describe both issues with the reports and areas of good reporting. Describe the cultural context of the reports, such as cultural factors that may influence the wearing of masks or policy recommendations on masks.

**Format and citations.** The paper should be roughly 2-3 pages. Use Arial 11 or Times New Roman 12 font, double spaced.

Make sure to include a list of the news media reports that you have cited. If it is from social media, provide as much information as you are able to, such as the author/account name and date.

Make sure that you check your paper carefully for spelling errors and grammatical mistakes.