

Upfront Magazine's...  
**NEWS & TRENDS**



## “The GP Twitter-feed”

### Tweet Rules:

- ✓ Write the News & Trend article **title in quotes** at the top and include the **month/year**
- ✓ Target an appropriate **audience** with an @ symbol (be creative!)
- ✓ Draft a clear and concise **summary statement** of the article.
- ✓ The summary statement must be **ONE sentence**.
- ✓ The summary statement must NOT exceed **30 words**.
- ✓ The summary statement must adhere to **punctuation/spelling/grammar** rules.
- ✓ **Hashtags** must be included and are to be rendered in the following way...
  - Hand Approach **theme** in CAPS, color-coded (*hashtag, line 1*)
  - Up to 5 **subcategories** within that theme (*hashtag, line 2*)
  - Any **special/unique phrases** from the article that increase our understanding of its contents or clarify its message (*hashtag, line 3*)

“Final Journey for a Fallen Soldier”  
(Feb. 2014)

**@edupavich:** After over a decade of war and more than 2,300 American lives lost, most remaining U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan will return home by the end of this year.

**# POLITICS/GOVERNMENT**

**#war**

**#Americaslongestwar**

## **WRITING IS A PROCESS...**

*This task is actually harder than you think! It may take several summary-drafts to perfect your message. Here's an example of the PROCESS that concise writing demands...*

### **OOPS! #1**

This **1<sup>st</sup> draft** focused more on details (secondary information) as opposed to the big picture message (main idea, primary information). Also, it was more than one sentence and well-over the 30-word mark, so I had to revise...oops!

⇒ ***Like more than 2,300 other American soldiers, Sgt. Peter C. Bohler, 29, was killed in Afghanistan this past month. The war has lasted since 2001, with a soldier being killed every other day, but President Barack Obama promises to bring home all U.S. soldiers by the end of 2014. (50 words)***

### **OOPS! #2**

The **2<sup>nd</sup> draft** attempt did a better job of highlighting the right information, but it was still too wordy and awkward...oops!

⇒ ***America's war with Afghanistan has lasted more than a decade and has claimed the lives of over 2,300 Americans, but President Obama confirms that the majority of remaining U.S. troops still there will return home at the end of this year. (43 words)***

### **OOPS! #3**

The **3<sup>rd</sup> draft** attempt sounds pretty good, but I'm just a few words over...how can I trim up the language without sacrificing clear communication?

⇒ ***After over a decade of war and more than 2,300 American lives lost, most **of the remaining U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan are scheduled to return home by the end of this year.** (34 words)***

### **EUREEKA! FINAL DRAFT**

Notice the slight changes in wording I made from draft #3 to this one...now that's concise!

⇒ ***After over a decade of war and more than 2,300 American lives lost, most remaining U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan will return home by the end of this year. (30 words)***

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**VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT**

For use with "What's at Stake" on p. 6 of the magazine

# Get a Clue

Paying attention to context can help you infer the meanings of challenging words you encounter in texts. Use context clues in this excerpt from the article "What's at Stake" to figure out the meanings of the boldfaced words and phrases.

Very little about the 2016 election has gone as expected. Few thought Donald Trump, a billionaire real estate **mogul** and reality TV star with a penchant for insulting opponents and shocking the public, could defeat 17 other Republicans to win his party's nomination.

And no one would have guessed that Democrat Hillary Clinton—a former first lady, senator, and secretary of state trying to become the nation's first female president—would face a bruising primary fight against Bernie Sanders, a largely unknown senator and self-described socialist.

With Trump and Clinton now set to square off in November, the one thing **pundits** can say for sure is that many Americans are deeply frustrated with the **status quo**. Two-thirds of those surveyed in recent polls believe the nation is on the wrong track and 80 percent disapprove of the way Congress is doing its job.

The challenge for voters will be to look beyond the campaign's circus-like atmosphere and weigh the candidates' very different visions for the nation.

**1.**

**PART A:**

The word *mogul* most nearly means \_\_\_\_.

- a a longtime politician
- b a political poll
- c a powerful and successful person
- d a heated contest

**PART B:**

Which word or phrase from the article provides the best support for the answer to Part A?

- a "billionaire"
- b "insulting opponents"
- c "shocking the public"
- d "reality TV"

**2.**

**PART A:**

The word *pundits* most nearly means \_\_\_\_.

- a candidates for public office
- b experts who give opinions on a topic
- c notable achievements
- d young and enthusiastic voters

**PART B:**

Which word or phrase from the article provides the best support for the answer to Part A?

- a "set to square off"
- b "deeply frustrated"
- c "circus-like atmosphere"
- d "can say for sure"

**3.**

**PART A:**

The phrase *status quo* most nearly means \_\_\_\_.

- a an ongoing battle
- b a person's background or experience
- c the time when something began
- d the existing state of affairs

**PART B:**

Which word or phrase from the article provides the best support for the answer to Part A?

- a "the challenge for voters"
- b "many Americans"
- c "believe the nation is on the wrong track"
- d "surveyed in recent polls"

**GOING FURTHER** Use context to explore these additional words from the article.

**4.** Infer the meaning of the word *contempt* on p. 8. Then answer the question.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

What's something you might have *contempt* for? \_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Infer the meaning of the word *sway* on p. 9. Then use the word in an original sentence.

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUIZ**

For use with "What's At Stake" on p. 6 of the magazine

# What's at Stake

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions. Refer to the article as needed.

**CHECK COMPREHENSION**

- 1. Based on the article, which of these is NOT an idea put forth by Donald Trump?**
  - a Beef up America's military.
  - b Continue Obamacare.
  - c Take a hard line against undocumented immigrants.
  - d Temporarily ban foreign Muslims.
  
- 2. Based on the article, which of these is NOT an idea put forth by Hillary Clinton?**
  - a Give undocumented immigrants a path to citizenship.
  - b Ask the wealthy to pay higher taxes.
  - c Allow sales of military-style assault weapons.
  - d Push to curb greenhouse gases.
  
- 3. The article notes that Trump and Clinton both have**
  - a decades of experience in political office.
  - b weak name recognition.
  - c high negative ratings in polls.
  - d none of the above
  
- 4. Which candidate won the most votes from young people during the primaries?**
  - a Hillary Clinton
  - b Donald Trump
  - c Ted Cruz
  - d Bernie Sanders

**ANALYZE THE TEXT**

- 5. In the first three paragraphs of the article, the author emphasizes**
  - a the surprises that Election 2016 has brought.
  - b the dominant issues in Election 2016.
  - c the strengths that each of the two main candidates brings to Election 2016.
  - d the two main candidates' standings in the polls.
  
- 6. According to the article, a main cause of the nation's current "economic unease" is**
  - a unbridled campaign spending.
  - b a record-high unemployment rate.
  - c a huge income gap between rich and poor Americans.
  - d all of the above
  
- 7. When the author describes the response of most Republican leaders to Trump as "lukewarm," she most nearly means the leaders have**
  - a been angrily outspoken about Trump.
  - b aggressively raised funds for Trump.
  - c shown little enthusiasm for Trump.
  - d become very friendly with Trump over time.
  
- 8. Based on the article, on which of these points would Trump and Clinton most likely agree?**
  - a Appointing the successor to Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia would have a lasting impact.
  - b The minimum wage must be raised.
  - c There should be a temporary ban on Muslim immigrants to reduce the threat of domestic ISIS attacks.
  - d all of the above

**IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS** Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

- 9. In what way might each main candidate be considered a departure from "business as usual" in Washington?**
  
- 10. What role might Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania, and other "battleground states" play in the election?**



GARY VARVEL • CREATORS SYNDICATE

### Analyze the Political Cartoon

1. The man in the cartoon is standing at a voting machine. What do you notice about his facial expression? What might this suggest about what he's thinking?
2. What is the man looking at? What kind of emergency is this usually used for? What kind of "emergency" is the cartoonist suggesting the man might be experiencing?
3. What message do you think the cartoonist is sending about the presidential election?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the cartoonist's message? Explain.
5. How do you think history will remember Election 2016?