The ways that writers cover a certain event or topic highly depends on the writer’s personal view or background. A political commentator will likely take a much more opinionated stance, as opposed to a crime beat writer, who will most likely cover basic facts and information.

Ja’han Jones (2022) wrote a political commentary piece on the Buffalo shooting, which was published by the more liberal outlet of MSBNC. His piece was largely concerned with the shooter’s white supremacist ideology and where it came from. Jones believes that white parents need to learn antiracism and teach antiracism to their children, and is concerned with the attempts to push back any of these teachings, such as the pushback on critical race theory in schools. Jones worries that if more white parents do not try and attempt to teach antiracism to their children, and remain unaware of how white supremacy is taught to white children, more attacks like the Buffalo shooting will occur. Particularly, Jones is concerned too with how many white parents are seeking to censor the history of racism in the United States to their children (Jones 2022).

Lou Michel and Dan Herbeck (2022) covered the shooting in a more fact-based matter, yet some opinion was still present in the article. The Buffalo News has been covering the shooting nearly every day since its occurrence, as it is the most popular newspaper in the Buffalo region. Michel and Herbeck’s article details the investigation into a group chat that the Buffalo shooter, Peyton Gendron, had created 30 minutes before the attack started. Law enforcement officials were investigating the group chat and determining if those in the chat would face prosecution. One of the chat members was a retired federal agent. In the group chat, the members would frequently discuss white supremacy and other racist ideologies. Apparently, the chat members were invited to read Gendron’s plans for the shooting, and yet the FBI did not find any evidence of people in the group chat tipping off law enforcement about the shooting. The opinion piece in the article comes from a quote by civil rights attorney John V. Elmore, who says that it would be outrageous if no charges were filed against the group chat members. Elmore says the group chat members should have had a “moral obligation” to report the attack. Additionally, it was found that 15 people were invited into the chat, and some of them watched the livestream of Gendron conducting the shooting. This article is notable in that it mostly focuses on the presence of the federal agent in the group chat (Michel and Herbeck 2022).

The Fox News article was mostly fact based. Admittedly, I was surprised that the majority of Fox News articles on the Buffalo shooting I could find did not insert extremely conservative viewpoints or discredited the racism behind the shooting. I have surmised that much of the conservatism that dominates Fox News is mostly on their television stations. I did notice that the sub headline called the shooting ‘alleged’, and put the FBI calling the attack “racially motivated violent extremism” in quotes (Ruiz 2022). The article covers President Biden’s visit to Buffalo following the shooting, and quotes what he says in a speech during a visit with families affected by the shooting. The writer also notes that Biden called the attack “terrorism” but doesn’t appear to agree or disagree with this sentiment. Overall, I noticed that the more progressive opinions were put in quotes, such as calling the attacks terrorism or racist (Ruiz 2022).

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