

Does my story...?

(Answering “yes” to a few of these questions indicates you’re on the right path.)

- acknowledge the **complexity** of the issue (and its various layers)?
- share a **historical** or **geographical** lens for context?
- challenge** an assumption without feeding an existing stereotype?
- explain** to my audience that there may be no “right way” to look at or solve the issue?
- spark **curiosity**?
- get **personal** and move beyond the surface-level with sources?
- illuminate a problem or solution in a way that helps make the conflict more **constructive**?
- acknowledge** what we don’t yet understand?
- explain** if/when a source changed their mind and why?
- challenge** my own biases as a journalist?
- acknowledge when people feel conflicted or experience **mixed emotions** and why?
- include sources that are **not the “usual suspects”**?
- show the **nuances** of diverse perspectives?
- reckon with **power dynamics** without diminishing what’s true and relevant about the stereotype?
- help us understand** ourselves, the other side, or our world better?
- get to the **deeper motivations** for why people do what they do (their interests and values)?
- include **visual data** (when relevant) that challenges the audience’s pre-existing beliefs?

