



# Climate Investigative Reporting

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# What is investigative reporting?

- Investigative reporting involves revealing public interest information that is not readily available.
- Sometimes, this information is deliberately hidden, and other times it's hidden in plain sight, but active information gathering is always necessary.
- It's very likely that someone (the wrongdoer) will be negatively impacted by the information and may act to avoid its publication, so safety and security must be considered.
- Investigative reporting doesn't only expose wrongdoing: it's also a challenge to dominating narratives.

## What's the difference between investigative reporting and news reporting?

News reporting (conventional)	Investigative reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Published periodically</li><li>- Research is superficial</li><li>- Stories are most often short</li><li>- Can stand on unchecked human sources</li><li>- Official information is portrayed as true</li><li>- Sources are impersonal or readily available</li><li>- The reporter must balance the sources</li><li>- Errors occur often and are easily fixable</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Published only when information is complete</li><li>- Research is in-depth</li><li>- Stories are most often long</li><li>- Needs documental support</li><li>- Official information is challenged</li><li>- Sources often need to be groomed</li><li>- The reporter must balance the facts</li><li>- Errors are not tolerable and can destroy a reporter's career</li></ul>

Hunter, M.L. et al: *Story-based inquiry: A manual for investigative journalists* (2009): UNESCO

# An investigative reporter is...

- ...curious, committed and motivated
- ...fair and ethical
- ...hard-working and driven
- ...brave
- ...organised and self-disciplined
- ...patient and discrete
- ...a good storyteller
- ...an avid reader

## Useful websites

Global Investigative Journalism Network: One of the world's largest repositories of global investigative resources. Here you'll find investigations, links, resources, manuals, grants, awards, opportunities...

International Consortium of Investigative Journalists: A US-based investigative newsroom with an international reach that includes hundreds of outlets from all around the world

Investigative Reporters and Editors: A grassroots organisation dedicated to promote investigative reporting. It includes a repository of opportunities, resources, trainings... It has a strong focus on data-driven journalism.

Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism: An independent organisation working to promote investigative reporting in the Arab world. Resources and investigations available in Arab and English.

# **Some examples of excellent climate investigative reporting**

Exxon: The Road not Taken: In this nine-part series, a team of InsideClimate News journalists revealed how the oil company ExxonMobil had conducted its own climate research as early as the 1970s, and actively engaged on a strategy of climate denial that contradicted what their own scientists had confirmed. The series was named a finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer prize award.

DeSmog's Global Warming Disinformation Database: An extensive database of individuals and organisations that engage or have engaged in different denial, PR or spin campaigns to with the goal of sowing doubt on climate and environmental science.

Drilled: Podcast that takes on climate change using an investigative approach.