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Week #7 Activity Using NBC Nightly News (Oct 9th 2020)

The first story presented about Hurricane Delta already hitting the gulf coast in Louisiana was selected because of fulfilling the Threshold and Unambiguity criteria. Both of these criteria were met because a hurricane hitting a large area which is affecting a lot of people checks the requirements for Threshold criteria and there is really no deeper meaning to this news story which checks the requirements for the Unambiguity criteria.

The second story about President Trump planning to hold an in-person event despite his recent COVID-19 diagnosis was selected because it fulfilled the criteria of Reference to Elite Persons and Predictability. Both of these criteria were fulfilled because President Trump is an elite person who the world constantly wants to know what he is doing at every second and because news sources predicted that if Trump were to beat COVID, he would act like everything is okay to prove it is not as bad as it seems.

The third story about President Trump proposing another $1.8 trillion stimulus bill was selected to air because it fulfilled the criteria of Reference to Elite Persons and Proximity. Both of these criteria were fulfilled because Trump is an elite person and because another stimulus bill affects everyone in the U.S. whether it is through getting another stimulus check in the mail or being affected by the money inflation that would happen after all the stimulus money is printed.

The fourth story about 13 people in a local militia group in Michigan being arrested for a kidnapping plot was selected to air because it fulfilled the criteria of Unexpectedness and Negativity. Both criteria were fulfilled because nobody expected a small radicalized militia group to plot to kidnap people and because this is negative news meant to incite fear about the rise of said militia groups.

The 5th story about the potential 2nd wave of COVID was selected to air because it fulfilled the criteria of Continuity, Threshold, and Proximity. All of these criteria were fulfilled because an emergence of a 2nd wave of COVID will continue to be talked about until the COVID-19 pandemic is over and a potential 2nd wave of COVID affects the whole world which makes it relevant to anyone watching.