2129020 **The future of news work**: Human-technology collaboration for journalistic research and narrative discovery

Kevin Crowston, Syracuse University
Keren Henderson, Syracuse University
Jeffrey Nickerson, Stevens Institute of Technology
Mark Hansen, Columbia University
Lydia Chilton, Columbia University (presenting)
chilton@cs.columbia.edu

PROBLEM:

Journalists keep the public informed by questioning misleading narratives promoted by the government in press releases.

However, **brainstorming angles from a press release is a cognitively taxing process**, requiring careful consideration of potential controversies for each claim in the document.

SOLUTION:

We investigate how large language models (LLMs) like GPT-3 can help journalists explore angles for press releases.

The system uses GPT-3 to
1) summarize the main points of the press release,
2) to identify potential sources of controversy
3) to find semantically related articles that might help generate angles

SYSTEM and EXAMPLE:

To support angle exploration for press releases we created AngleKindling – which uses a LLM to generate potential angles. Here's how it'd be used for the press release on wind power.
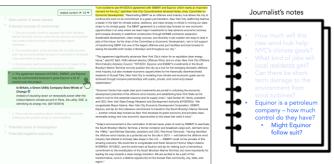
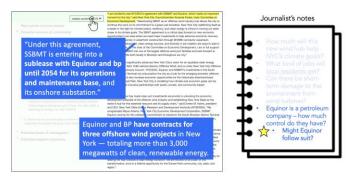1) The journalist starts by reading the press release.

2) They examine AngleKindling's generated controversies. Two new angles catch their eye.

From this, the journalist discovered a story angle that Equinor (an oil company) is involved in this wind energy project. The journalist will now investigate whether Equinor's role in NYC's energy future presents a conflict of interest.

3) They select the angle on Equinor's power to view historical context. They see an article about how the British electricity company SSE has moved from a green energy mix to one with more fossil fuels.

4) They use the related content button, which highlights portions of the text relevant to the controversy.