

Part I: Gold for a New Century

1 A Medal for All Seasons, 2013–2014: From Police Speeding to NSA Spying

Chapter 1 Discussion

1. What are some examples of the teamwork displayed among reporters and editors at the Sun Sentinel in its stories about speeding police, and at the Washington Post and Guardian-US.com in its work on NSA spying? In what ways might the stories have been different if they were the work of a single reporter?
2. When a publication like the Sun Sentinel has to cut costs, what are some pros and cons involved in reducing the investigative reporting function, as the Sun Sentinel did for a time? What benefit did editor Howard Saltz get from restoring the newspaper's investigative team?
3. One Pulitzer juror said that the Sun Sentinel staff had given its stories "every-person appeal." In what ways did the stories do that?
4. Two reporters involved with the Washington Post NSA discussed their concerns about being "freelancers" while researching and writing a sensitive project. What advantage does a formal connection with a news organization offer. Are there other ways for reporters to protect themselves?
5. In the competitive world of news reporting, why would the Guardian editor say that some stories "transcend rivalry" between publications? What are the advantages of collaboration between news organizations? Do you know of other examples of this? (**Throughout Pulitzer's Gold look for other cases involving collaboration, for example, in the relationship of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the Chicago Daily News in Chapter 13. Also consider the creation of Investigative Reporters and Editors, mentioned at the end of Chapter 17.**)

Chapter 1 Quiz

1. What is "Citizenfour" and what award did it receive?
A A novel/Pulitzer Prize
B A movie/Oscar
C A song/Emmy
D A dog/Westminster Best in Show
2. Why was a radar gun a poor tool for reporters to use in proving police speeding? It
A Was too expensive
B Didn't have batteries
C Couldn't clock cop car speed
D Was too unwieldy
3. Where did the Guardian's interviews with Edward Snowden take place?
A Hong Kong
B London
C Moscow
D Washington, D.C.
4. Laura Poitras received bylines on the Guardian-US website for its Pulitzer-winning NSA spying stories, but not in the Washington Post:
 True False
5. What did a fortune cookie tell Post reporter Bart Gellman?
A To use his data beneficially
B To be careful
C He would meet a tall, dark stranger
D It was his lucky day