

Covering YOUR Communities

Material from Covering Communities:
A Project of The Harwood Institute
and the KU Journalism School

What's in YOUR wallet?

- And what does that say about your communities?

Community defined ...

- Community is ...

www.coveringcommunities.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Covering Communities website. The header features the site's name and logo, along with logos for its partner organizations: William Allen White School of Journalism & Mass Communications, The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. A navigation menu includes links for Key Insights, Classroom, Tools, Innovators, Archive, and Blog, with the Blog link highlighted by a yellow circle. The main content area features a large image of a superhero and a crowd, followed by a text block titled 'Community is key to journalism's future' and a link to an article by Tom Warhaver. A yellow warning icon indicates the site is under construction. The footer contains copyright information and a search bar.

Covering Communities
A site for journalists, educators, students and citizen journalists

William Allen White School of Journalism & Mass Communications
The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Key Insights | Classroom | Tools | Innovators | Archive | **Blog**

Community is key to journalism's future

The communities you cover run much deeper than you might think. Dig beneath the surface and you'll find different perspectives, new story ideas and more authoritative sources. Covering Communities offers insights, examples and exercises. Take some time to explore the site and discover new ways to produce more meaningful journalism.

[Visit our Innovators to learn Tom Warhaver's views on framing.](#)

! This site is still under construction; we welcome [feedback](#).

Copyright © 2006 Covering Communities

[About Us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Home](#) | [Search](#)

Layers of civic life:

- Official
- Quasi-Official
- Third Places
- Incidental
- Private

The OFFICIAL layer:

- Designated as an official place and time to discuss issues.
- Can be divisive, partisan.
- Already covered extensively.
- Examples?

The QUASI-OFFICIAL layer:

- Highly organized citizen groups.
- Leadership identified; formal meetings
- Reporters welcome. Positive coverage preferred.
- Examples?

THIRD PLACES:

- Comfortable public gathering places.
- No formal leader.
- People talk informally.
- Reporters may enter under certain conditions.
- Examples?

INCIDENTAL:

- Random, everyday encounters between friends.
- No gathering place.
- People visit, gossip, chit-chat.
- Tough for reporters to cover.
- Examples?

PRIVATE:

- Inside your home.
- Talk centers on private life of household.
- Can be covered in human interest stories BUT intervening layers missing.
- Examples?

Finding third places:

- Spend more time in this layer.
- This is where you'll find stronger stories and more authentic sources.
- This is where you'll connect with your community.
- What are some third places here at KU?

Visiting third places:

- Take it slow.
- Spend some time just observing.
- Ask questions but don't take out a camera, notebook or a pen.
- Eventually, people will get used to seeing you.

Third Places: Charleston Gazette

- Ruff Crowd
- What kind of stories might you find here?

What if you're shy?

- Fifty-seven percent of reporters are introverts.
- Being shy can impact your coverage:
 - Positive
 - Negative

Tips:

- Find a wingman.
- Take your time.
- Be prepared.
- Consider the odds.
- Jump.



Covering Communities

A site for journalists, educators, students and citizen journalists



William Allen White School of Journalism & Mass Communications



The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation



John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Key Insights

Classroom

Tools

Ideas in Action

Library

Blog

Key Insights Spotlight

COMING SOON

Online Learning

- [News University](#)
- [BBC Online Learning](#)
- [J-Lab](#)
- [Madison Commons](#)
- [Maynard Institute](#)
- [Project for Excellence in Journalism](#)
- [APME Credibility Roundtables](#)
- [The University of Alabama Knight Community Journalism Fellows](#)
- Do you have a favorite online learning link? If so, [let us know](#)

[Home](#) > [Classroom](#)



Third Places

The benefits of spending time in third places are huge: What are people talking about? What are their hopes and dreams? Leave the RSS feeds and get away from the blogs for a while. Go where folks hang out. Watch and listen.



Bias

All of us grow up with our own set of experiences, values and ideas about how the world should work. Although we do not intentionally get locked into our own ways of thinking and perceiving, the filters we bring to any situation may prevent us from seeing the world as others do.



Hosting a Student Conversation

What are people talking about on your campus or in your town? Here's how to plan and execute a campus conversation. Hint: Here we're suggesting you sit down and talk face-to-face.

Covering YOUR Communities

Material from Covering Communities:
A Project of The Harwood Institute
and the KU Journalism School