**COMMS201 Tutorial Plan- Week4: The Fourth Estate**

**Group Activity: Discussion of Terms**

Group 1:

Government Spin

PR

Group 2:

Dumbing Down

Mergers

Group 3:

Investigative Journalism

Oligopolies

**Class Discussion: What is “The Fourth Estate?”**

What do we mean by the “Fourth Estate” role of journalism?

Our two writers differ: Edward views it ‘real’ journalism, Hampton as an ‘ideal’. Discuss their differences.

How are their perspectives manifest in *He Toki Huna: New Zealand in Afghanistan* and *Fahrenheit 911*?

**Assignment**

This is the basis for the assignment, although on Canvas we suggest which directions your answer might take. Let’s do a ‘nuts and bolts’ discussion here to ensure you understand the assignment. You could divide your answer into a) and b) rather than roll it into one (in more academic style).

Answer **BOTH** sections a) and b). The second section should be more substantive.

a) News values are criteria, agreed upon but unquestioned and unexamined, that determine which events, out of the many millions that occur each day, become 'the news'. Discuss this statement.

b) Select TWO disparate short news items from different media (printed newspaper/radio/television/online). These could be either NZ or international news items and could be, for example, breaking news, celebrity news, political news, lifestyle news or specialist news (such as sports, business, science, or technology). Do not use long-form journalism, feature articles, broadcast current affairs or documentary.

Reflect on the type of reporting in each of the two items, analyse the news values that lie behind them, and describe their similarities or differences.