

Boydston (2013) *Making the News: Politics, the Media and Agenda Setting*

Table 3.1 A typology of news-generation modes

|                 | Alarm Mode  | Nonalarm Mode   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Patrol Mode     | <p><i>Example Variables at Work:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focusing/key/triggering events</li> <li>• Sensational/“easy” policy issue (or in rare cases no explicit policy issue)</li> <li>• Many key actors involved</li> <li>• High policymaker attention</li> <li>• High public concern</li> <li>• Many frames available; accessible thematic framework</li> <li>• Low media agenda congestion</li> </ul> <p><i>Resulting Type of News Coverage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden surge of coverage followed by continued high-level coverage (i.e., a sustained media explosion)</li> </ul> <p><i>Example News Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9/11</li> <li>• Baseball doping scandal</li> <li>• Hurricane Katrina</li> <li>• 2000 election re-count</li> <li>• Anita Hill’s allegations re: Clarence Thomas’ Supreme Court nomination</li> <li>• Catholic priest abuse scandal</li> <li>• Treyvon Martin’s shooting</li> </ul> | <p><i>Example Variables at Work:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beat items or routine/seasonal events</li> <li>• Unsensational/“hard” policy issue (or no explicit policy issue)</li> <li>• Many key actors involved</li> <li>• High policymaker attention</li> <li>• High public concern</li> <li>• Many frames available; accessible thematic framework</li> <li>• Low media agenda congestion</li> </ul> <p><i>Resulting Type of News Coverage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-level sustained coverage <i>or</i> high-level sustained coverage (i.e., beat stories or a timed media explosion)</li> </ul> <p><i>Example News Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing military actions overseas</li> <li>• Olympics</li> <li>• General weather patterns</li> <li>• General election convention</li> <li>• Stephen Breyer’s Supreme Court nomination</li> <li>• Pope’s visit</li> <li>• New York City’s war on crime</li> </ul> |
| Non-Patrol Mode | <p><i>Example Variables at Work:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focusing/key/triggering events</li> <li>• Sensational/“easy” policy issue (or no explicit policy issue)</li> <li>• Few key actors involved</li> <li>• Low policymaker attention</li> <li>• Low public concern</li> <li>• Few frames available; accessible episodic framework</li> <li>• High media agenda congestion</li> </ul> <p><i>Resulting Type of News Coverage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden surge of coverage followed by low-level (or no) coverage (i.e., a momentary media explosion)</li> </ul> <p><i>Example News Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haiti earthquake</li> <li>• Michael Jackson’s death</li> </ul>  | <p><i>Example Variables at Work:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any non-focusing/key/triggering event</li> <li>• Unsensational/“hard” policy issue (or no explicit policy issue)</li> <li>• Few key actors involved</li> <li>• Low policymaker attention</li> <li>• Low public concern</li> <li>• Few frames available; accessible episodic framework</li> <li>• High media agenda congestion</li> </ul> <p><i>Resulting Type of News Coverage:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-level coverage for brief period (no media explosion)</li> </ul> <p><i>Example News Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human interest stories</li> <li>• Most crimes</li> </ul>  |