

News Sim 3.0

Interactive writing simulations for high school students

News Sim 3.0 provides high school journalism teachers with five realistic multimedia reporting assignments. The assignments--Bank Robbery, School Shooting?, City Council Meeting, Tornado! and Basketball Scandal--are designed to improve students' writing, newsgathering and critical thinking skills as the simulations increase in complexity and duration. The simulations require stu-

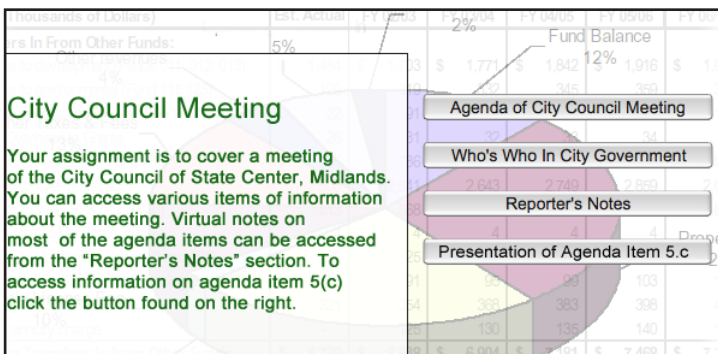
dents to listen and take notes of video interviews, press conferences and telephone messages, and read and interpret public documents.

The authors of *News Sim* are Brian Poulter and James Tidwell, journalism professors at Eastern Illinois University. Their original effort in creating an interactive assignment resulted in *Fire Scene*, a single simulation that won first place in the 2002 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication "Best of Web" competition in the category of teaching websites. Over 400 high schools and universities downloaded and used *Fire Scene*.

After *Fire Scene* caught the attention of several national publishers, the authors contracted with Wadsworth Publishing Co. and produced a series of simulations for the college market. That series, now in its third edition entitled *News Scene 3.0*, is packaged with Wadsworth's top-selling news writing textbook *Writing and Reporting* by Carole Rich. It includes 11 simulated assignments.



Poulter and Tidwell retained the rights to market a limited number of the simulations to high school journalism programs. Thus, *News Sim 3.0* is available to high school programs around the country. *News Sim 3.0* comes on a CD, and uses Adobe Acrobat and QuickTime Player software. The CD is compatible with both Mac and Windows computers.



A teacher testimonial on News Sim:

I'm absolutely in love with NewsSim. Today was the first day I actually had all the kids working with it at the same time (versus one kid here or there as a remediation), and they were so entranced. They were flipping back and forth between screens, watching and re-watching things while taking notes. They each had their headsets on, and it was so easy to use that I just sat in the back of the room with my feet up and read the Post. You guys are awesome. Now can you make a CD that makes teaching Yearbook and Newspaper just as easy? Chad Rummel, CJE, Oakton High School, Vienna, VA

With extensive experience as journalists and journalism educators, the authors have designed *News Sim* to be as flexible as possible so as to fit a variety of teaching styles and approaches.

The *News SIM 3.0* CD also comes with a teacher's guide that includes a verbatim transcript of each exercise that makes it easier to check the accuracy of students' reporting.

A News Sim 3.0 site license purchased through the Journalism Education Association Bookstore (Item #950) is \$145 for members and \$160 for nonmembers. The license allows an individual high school purchaser to install the software on an unlimited number of computers at that school. JEA Bookstore, Kansas State University, 103 Kedzie Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506. 868-532-5532. http://www.jea.org/bookstore/product_info.php?products_id=462