** Showroom ** **Constructive approach**

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**Handout**

**A constructive checklist**

**When writing a story, go through this checklist. If you can answer yes to some of these questions, you’re on your way to a constructive piece.**

 Does it present a solution or response to a problem?

 Does it look toward the future, asking “what now?”

 Does it include sources beyond the “usual suspects”? (for example: does it include people directly affected by the issue, civil society, people with different perspectives, etc.)

 Does it add context and historical perspective?

 Does it examine various sides of an issue, the gray areas, instead of painting it in black and white?

 Does it present the whole picture or just one part of it?

 Is it critical and factual?

 Does it provide insight that others can use and build on?

 Does it challenge an accepted assumption or go beyond a stereotype?

 Is it calm and curious instead of outraged and accusatory?

 Does it help people understand multiple sides or points of view?

 Does it get to the deeper motivations about why people feel or do what they do?

 Does it challenge my own biases or presumptions as a journalist?

 Does it acknowledge what we don’t know or understand yet?

*Checklist by Iconbunny from NounProject.com*