

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

## They Are Us



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# The Puerto Ricans are coming

BY JOSÉ A. CABRANES  
AND FÉLIX LÓPEZ

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In the wake of Hurricane Maria, a vast internal migration of U.S. citizens is likely in the months ahead, as tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans, possibly 1 million or more over time, choose to move to the U.S. mainland. If this migration occurs, it will be an additional, slow-motion disaster inflicted on an island that can ill afford to lose any more of its best and brightest. As the federal government considers how robustly to respond to Maria, it should keep in mind the need to avoid compounding the already catastrophic damage the island has suffered.

The storm destroyed Puerto Rico's fragile power grid. Estimates suggest that power may not be fully restored for many months. If this is so, Puerto Rico's already struggling economy will be crippled for years, trapping more than 3 million of our fellow citizens in an economic nightmare. Maria damaged dams, bridges and roads, demolished homes and businesses, and wiped out much of Puerto Rico's admired greenery.

Puerto Rico, of course, is hardly alone in suffering hurricane damage, and the federal government must continue its recovery programs in Texas and Florida. But as an isolated



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

**People wait in line to get a flight out of the Luis Munoz Marin International Airport in San Juan.**

island with no power and little communication, it is experiencing a dire crisis. Should basic services fail to return soon, social and economic disorder will prompt willing and able Puerto Ricans to seek temporary, or possibly permanent, refuge among friends and relatives already living on the mainland. They are likely to choose warm-weather localities that are familiar, hospitable and welcoming, such as Texas and Florida, currently confronting their own natural-disaster recovery. About 1 million Puerto Ricans already live in the Sunshine State, and Puerto Ricans are projected to soon pass Cubans as the largest group of Latinos in the state.

Any such migration can only

accelerate and deepen the social and economic crisis in Puerto Rico. This is because it will consist in large measure of the educated and professional middle classes — those who came to maturity in the past five decades as a result of the island's justly celebrated program of economic development and modernization. Large numbers of Puerto Rican medical doctors, engineers and teachers have already left the financially strapped island for Texas, Florida and other states.

Until the 1940s, Puerto Rico was a desperately poor agrarian society, an embarrassment to an American empire whose armed forces had seized the island from Spain during the Spanish-American

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CLARITZA JIMENEZ/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Hurricane Maria's devastating blow to Puerto Rico has renewed interest in how the island's relationship with the U.S. functions.**

War of 1898, promising Puerto Ricans “the advantages and blessings of our enlightened civilization.” By 1917, the people of Puerto Rico had become U.S. citizens with an elected bicameral legislature and a governor appointed by the president. Puerto Ricans have elected their own governor since 1948, and their 1952 commonwealth constitution resembles in most respects the basic law of an American state, except that Puerto Rico's more than 3 million American citizens have no voting representation in Congress.

The Puerto Rican constitution

represents the faith that Puerto Ricans placed in the American project. In the 1950s and '60s — when many of its Spanish-speaking neighbors flirted with or turned to Marxism — Puerto Rico embraced democratic self-government, tax and labor policies specially tailored by a sympathetic Congress, and free-market economics. It became an exemplar of how a colonial people under the American flag could lift itself from poverty without communist depredations.

Of course, all Puerto Ricans are deeply conscious that the island's

subordinate political status has made them unusual U.S. citizens. Nonetheless, Puerto Ricans know that they are entitled to the protection of the United States and that they are free to move to the continental United States and — in the words of a unanimous decision by the Supreme Court — become “residents of any State there to enjoy every right of any other citizen of the United States, civil, social and political.”

The freedom to travel is a fundamental constitutional right, and citizens in Puerto Rico are free to exercise it. But as lawmakers consider a new round of disaster relief funding next month, they should keep in mind: The damage of a hurricane can be repaired only after the fact. The damage of large outward migration can be prevented, at least in part, by assuring Puerto Ricans that they will have a promising future at home.

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## WorldViews • Analysis

# Latest North Korea missile launch suggests Guam is within reach

BY ADAM TAYLOR,  
LARIS KARKLIS AND TIM MEKO

• Originally Published September 15, 2017

On Friday morning, a North Korean ballistic missile flew over the Japanese island of Hokkaido and into the Pacific Ocean. This was the second time in less than three weeks that a missile has flown over Japan; worryingly, it came just a day after Pyongyang said that Japan “should be sunken into the sea.”

However, as sirens sounded in Japan, Americans quickly grew concerned that the real threat revealed by this latest missile test was not just against

Japan but also the U.S. territory of Guam.

North Korea’s missile, believed to be an intermediate-range Hwasong-12, had flown 2,300 miles in just over 17 minutes, according to South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff. That range means that Guam, which lies 2,100 miles from North Korea, is now in reach.

“North Korea demonstrated that it could reach Guam with this missile,” David Wright, co-director of the global security program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, wrote in a blog post.

As tensions between North Korea and the United States and its allies have increased in recent weeks, Pyongyang has made a number of

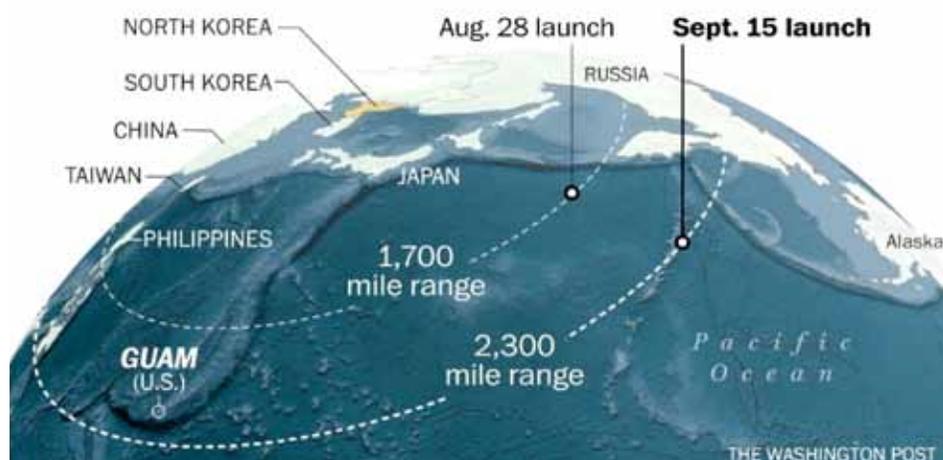
threats against Guam, an island territory of 160,000 people. In early August, a North Korean military spokesman said that the country was considering a plan to fire missiles into the sea around Guam. A propaganda video released a few weeks later reiterated this suggestion.

It’s an ominous thought. Guam might have only 14 minutes to react if a North Korean missile were about to strike, officials have said.

Guam has faced similar warnings from North Korea in the past. The island territory, which is around 4,000 miles west of Hawaii, is an important strategic hub for U.S. power in the Pacific. It is home to both Andersen Air Force Base and Naval Base Guam, bases that contain not only 6,000 troops but also long-range bombers, ships and submarines.

“Every time there is some saber rattling in this part of the world, Guam is always part of the occasion,” Robert A. Underwood, president of the University of Guam and a former delegate to the House of Representatives, told The Washington Post in August.

However, rapid advancements in North Korea’s missile technology have changed the nature of the threat. Notably, missile tests earlier this



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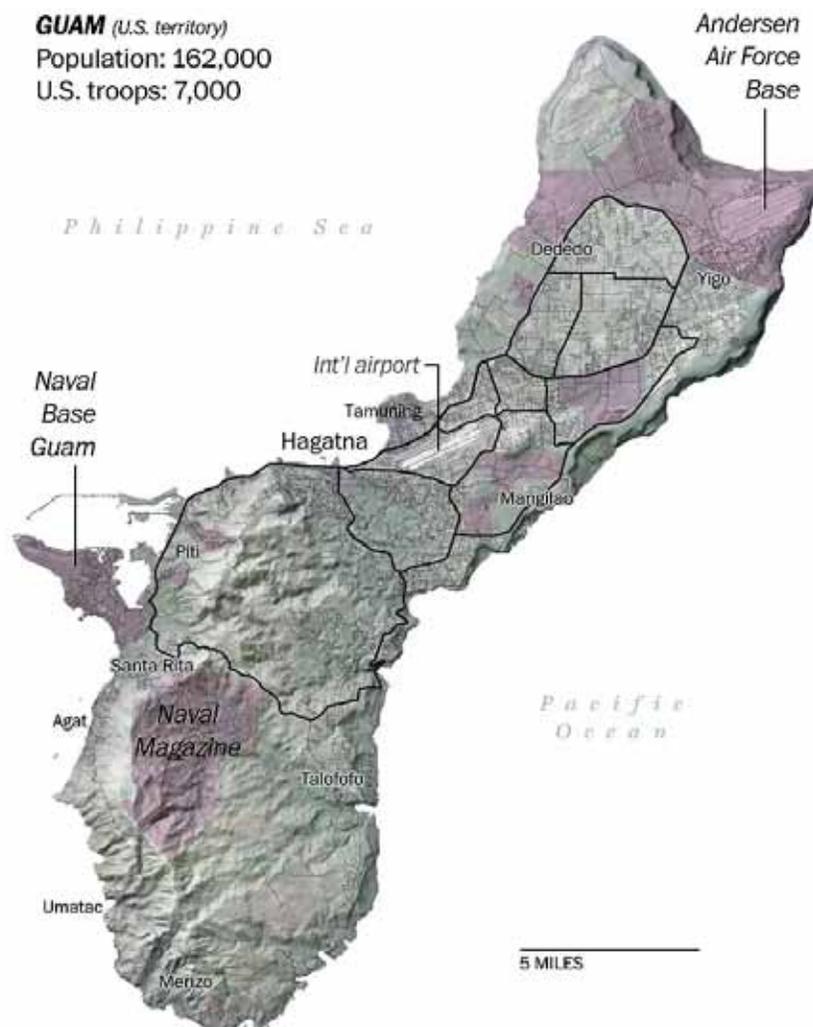
year were fired at a lofted trajectory — essentially sending the missile high into space to avoid flying it over other nations. Two Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missiles tested in July appeared to be capable of reaching the U.S. mainland, but it remains unclear how they would fare on a standard trajectory.

With the past two tests that apparently used Hwasong-12 missiles, Pyongyang appears to have moved away from that cautious strategy and has conducted tests over Japanese territory — a tactic that involves considerable risk.

The increase in range between the Aug. 28 and Sept. 15 launches would appear to show that Guam is in range of the Hwasong-12 — in theory, at least. However, there are still a number of unknown variables in the test, including the size of its payload and how a heavier payload would affect its flight. In his blog post, Wright adds that it is also unlikely that the missile is accurate enough to hit a military base on Guam.

“Even assuming the missile carried a 150 kiloton warhead, which may be the yield of North Korea’s recent nuclear test, a missile of this inaccuracy would still have well under a 10 percent chance of destroying the air base,” Wright wrote.

But North Korea is still likely to proclaim the latest missile test a success. After the Aug. 28 test, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said it was “a meaningful prelude to containing Guam,” the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported.



Source: Maps4News/HERE

THE WASHINGTON POST

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**The Volokh Conspiracy****The Guano Islands Act**

BY KEVIN UNDERHILL

- Originally Published July 8, 2014

If you were here for Day 1 of my guest-blogging stint, you know that rather than selfishly promoting my book, *The Emergency Sasquatch Ordinance*, or my blog, Lowering the Bar, I set out five categories of weird laws for discussion this week. Yesterday's topic was "Pointless Declarations." Today, "Old Laws Still on the Books."

The book has some examples of old laws not still on the books, and they are weird but not today's topic. So if you are interested in knowing the maximum number of flutists that were allowed to play at a Roman funeral, for example, you will have to read the book. (Also, you probably need to get out more.) The subject today is old laws that are still in force although they have little or no application in modern times.

The Guano Islands Act is perhaps the most interesting federal example. Passed in 1856 during the administration of Franklin Pierce, the act was designed to address one of the most important problems then facing the nation. Namely, a critical shortage of bird poop.

If you guessed the problem was



LOC.GOV

Advertisement for guano, 1884

“escalating tensions over slavery,” you have overestimated the administration of Franklin Pierce.

Guano, which is a more polite term for bird or bat excrement, has long been known to be an excellent fertilizer. Artificial fertilizer was not cost-effective in the 1850s, and with human populations growing quickly, more and more of the natural kind was needed. (I assume our own guano isn't so good for this purpose, or that problem would have solved itself.) But where to find it?

Small uninhabited tropical islands turn out to be ideal for large undisturbed seabird populations,

which, over thousands of years, dropped one hell of a lot of fertilizer. In some places it was over 50 meters deep. Everybody wanted that dung, and Congress was no exception.

The Guano Islands Act provided that if a U.S. citizen discovered guano on “any island, rock, or key” that was uninhabited (by people) and “not within the lawful jurisdiction of any other Government,” and said citizen peacefully occupied the same, “such island, rock, or key may, at the discretion of the President, be considered as appertaining to the United States.” The discoverer had the exclusive right to mine guano and the President was authorized to deploy the armed forces to protect it.

In short, the act allowed any citizen to claim an island on behalf of the United States, as long as that island was uninhabited and covered in bird poop.

Did anyone take advantage of that? They sure did. More than 100 islands around the globe were claimed this way, including Midway Island and about 99 islands you've never heard of. (This was a bigger deal than you might think, legally, because the precedent led to the whole concept of “unincorporated territories” or “insular areas” over which the U.S. exercises jurisdiction, but in which the Constitution does not fully apply.) The U.S. has given up any claims on most of those, but it still claims a handful and in fact

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actively opposes at least one claim by another nation (Haiti).

Can you take advantage of the Guano Islands Act today? You sure can. See 48 U.S.C. § 1411-19. In fact, somebody tried to use it as recently as 1997, trying for some reason to claim Navassa Island (the one near Haiti). But in *Warren v. United States*, the court held that Navassa has “appertained to” the U.S. since 1857, and the U.S. has never given it up. The real question, why anybody in his right mind would want Navassa Island, a waterless hellhole from which all the dung has already been mined, was not addressed.

Do we need the Guano Islands Act today? No, we do not. The U.S. can take jurisdiction over such places without it, and it does not seem necessary or even desirable to encourage citizens to go out and try to claim them for dung-mining purposes. And yet it remains in the U.S. Code.

The states of course have old laws on the books as well, many of which would appear to be unconstitutional. In Mississippi, it is still a misdemeanor to teach another person about polygamy. You can’t be a polygamist, of course — at least for now — but you’re not supposed

to even tell anyone about it. I doubt that’s ever been enforced, but why have it? Kentucky and Tennessee both have anti-dueling laws, which may be constitutional but are also a bit dated. In South Carolina, it’s illegal to refuse to join a posse, and I would guess it’s been a while since that one came up. And plenty of American towns have laws that need updating — one example being Columbus, Georgia, where the code still regulates steamboat captains and prohibits swearing on the telephone.

The oldest written law still on the books, though, at least in the common-law countries, would appear to be the Statute of Marlborough. This was enacted in 1267 — not that long after the Magna Carta — and according to a 2012 report by the U.K.’s Law Commission, four chapters of this law were still in effect 745 years later. (It is also still illegal to wear armor in Parliament, but that only dates back to 1313.)

Do these elderly laws do any harm? Well, again, some of them have been around long enough that they violate our modern understanding of the Constitution. Those should go. And our codes are long and confusing enough without the clutter of statutes that nobody (except maybe me) has read in the last century (or seven).

Most likely they persist due to simple inertia and the fact that while legislators can take credit for “doing something” by passing legislation, repeals are less exciting.

But occasionally, someone does take an interest in cleaning up the codes. Wyoming recently repealed a law dealing with “cinematographers,” a term that formerly referred to specialists trained in hand-cranking movie projectors. There just aren’t any of those anymore (even in Wyoming). Minnesota just finished a more comprehensive effort, getting rid of over 1,100 outdated or unnecessary laws, like laws regulating telegraph operators or making it a crime to carry fruit in the wrong-sized container. And in the U.K., the Law Commission’s job is to review periodically all the statutes passed there over the centuries and recommend possible repeals. Congress and the states should have something like that, if they don’t already.

By the way, the Law Commission recommended that two chapters of the Statute of Marlborough be repealed, but somebody wrote in to complain (!), so they kept them. As that shows, getting rid of the old stuff may be harder than it seems, but it is still a worthy effort.

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# Siri, where am I?

By Ron Charles

• Originally Published July 10, 2014

Now that we all carry around constantly updating, infinitely detailed maps on our smartphones, the world should feel small and brightly lit, right?

Not so, says Alastair Bonnett, a “psychogeographer” at Newcastle University, which is somewhere off to our right. He’s just published a delightfully quirky book called *Unruly Places: Lost Spaces, Secret Cities, and Other Inscrutable Geographies* (HMH, \$25). In dozens of short entries, he describes “floating islands, dead cities, and hidden kingdoms.”

Beware: This is no Carnival Cruise. “Authentic topophilia can never be satisfied with a diet of sunny villages,” Bonnett writes. “The most fascinating places are often also the most disturbing, entrapping, and appalling.”

I corresponded with him via e-mail.

## Has technology denied us the special pleasure of getting lost?

We are all cartographic obsessives these days. It’s great in some ways, but it also feeds into the unhealthy situation in which if we don’t know exactly where we are and where everything else is in relationship to us, we start prodding our screens and thinking something is amiss. This is profoundly disempowering,



LOUIS HOLLAND/ HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT  
**Alastair Bonnett**

for it suggests that without constant expert advice, we would all be driving in circles or off cliffs. So for me, it’s not so much about the pleasures of getting lost, it’s more about finding the confidence to know that we can find our own way and that the pleasures of travel — and of serendipity — can’t be uploaded.

## It’s easy to imagine that there are no more places left on earth to be discovered.

Ever since the photographs from Apollo 17 of the “blue marble” back in 1972, we’ve lived with the sense that the whole world is fully known. Actually, people have been saying this for some time: It was back in 1887 that the éminence grise of British Geography, Halford Mackinder, claimed, “We are near the end of the roll of great discoveries.” However,

exploration is far from dead. There are vast landscapes under the sea and under the polar ice that have yet to be mapped in any detail. Also, surprises do turn up on land. It was only this April that Leeds University [Britain] scientists confirmed the existence of a peat bog the size of England in a remote region of the Congo Republic. And let’s not forget that plenty of the world isn’t subject to the kind of high-res imagery found in the U.S.A. I guess that’s also why mass kidnappings can take place in Africa and the victims not be found.

## I love the way your book makes us think of overlooked areas — the LAX parking lot, for instance — as actual, distinct places.

Places that are lost in the fabric of the modern city fascinate me because they are so stoical: They seem to say, “Even here we can make a place.” A place is somewhere distinct, with its own story and its own identity. I think that speaks of the way place-loving and place-making is fundamental to what we are, and the way our identity is tied up with place. I end the book with children’s places, and I think it’s important to know that one of our earliest activities is to make places, which we might call “dens” or “camps.”

## Can any of us be an explorer?

We have to change our view of what “exploration” is. These days it is more likely to be found in taking a journey into the ruins of Detroit



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# Sovereignty campaigners want their Hawaii back

WAILUA, Hawaii — Colonization of these Pacific islands — and eventual statehood nearly 60 years ago — has always been a bitter subject for Native Hawaiians, the only indigenous group in the United States that does not have political sovereignty.

Decimated in number after the Western world first occupied the archipelago and later feeling marginalized within the federal bureaucracy, Native Hawaiians are now pushing hard to create their own nation, seeking the type of self-governance Native American tribes across the country established long ago.

A group that includes politicians, police officers, fast-food workers and farmers has drafted a new constitution and plans for a ratification vote. Support has come from residents on every island here, as well as from members of the Hawaiian diaspora in such places as Washington, Vietnam and Sweden.

...

“I’ve been involved in the sovereignty movement my whole life, and when Hawaiians get together to talk about sovereignty, it usually involves a lot of fighting and



BONNIE JO MOUNT/WASHINGTON POST

**Residents of Anahola wave the Hawaiian flag. Most people who live in Anahola, on Kauai, are of Hawaiian descent.**

Native Hawaiians are the descendants of the original Polynesians who built a society on the islands more than 1,000 years ago, arriving on double-hulled voyaging canoes they navigated by following the stars. After British explorer James Cook landed in Hawaii in the late 1770s — he was killed there in 1779 while attempting to kidnap the king of Hawaii Island — Europeans began visiting regularly, and many of the Hawaiians were killed off by unfamiliar diseases.

The United States played a role in tearing down the Hawaiian monarchy, overthrowing the kingdom and forcing Queen Lili‘uokalani to abdicate the throne in January 1893. Hawaii became a state in 1959. ...

[A]dding to the momentum now is a new opportunity for Hawaiians to grow their political independence by seeking an official nation-to-nation relationship with the United States. The rulemaking that allows it, announced last year by the U.S. Interior Department, does not attempt to reorganize a native government or dictate its structure. It allows Hawaiians to create a government of their choosing, with an option to vet it against the newly established eligibility requirements for federal recognition.

The Interior Department started accepting requests for federal recognition from Native American groups in 1978, but that pathway to self-determination was previously off limits to Native Hawaiians.

Federal recognition is harshly criticized by some Hawaiians who aspire to strip themselves completely of U.S. law and influence instead of operating within the U.S. system. Advocates for total independence hope to win an international court order that would call on the U.S. to forfeit its political and military presence in the Hawaiian islands. ...

To read complete article, visit [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/native-hawaiians-again-seek-political-sovereignty-with-a-new-constitution/2017/11/05/833842d2-b905-11e7-be94-fabb0f1e9ffb\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.acb3a859546f](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/native-hawaiians-again-seek-political-sovereignty-with-a-new-constitution/2017/11/05/833842d2-b905-11e7-be94-fabb0f1e9ffb_story.html?utm_term=.acb3a859546f)

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## Know Your Readers

The reporter's role is to communicate with readers and listeners. This means getting the facts through conducting interviews, delving into research and being an eyewitness. It means using accurate and effective language. It requires an understanding of one's readers. Be the reporter as you answer the following questions.

### News and Other Significant Topics

1. Who are your readers? Are they students, faculty and staff, and administrators? Does your publication have sections, columns and features directed to their varying interests?

Reporters must consider: What is common knowledge that requires no reporting? What may be known only by a few but could benefit the whole school community? What is not known or is misunderstood that you could address to inform the school community?

2. What do your readers know about \_\_\_\_\_ (select a topic)?
3. What do your readers not know about this topic?
4. What do your readers need to know about this topic?
5. Remember reporters must be accountable for what carries their bylines, whether published in print, online or on air. What should reporters do to acquire the best sources of information on the topic?
  - a. Cover a meeting, demonstration, or school and community cultural events
  - b. Identify and interview reliable sources
  - c. Delve into research of documents, historic archives, court cases, records

### Effectively Communicate Information

6. What is the best approach to communicate information to your readers about a topic?
  - a. Photograph and informative caption/cutline
  - b. Photo essay
  - c. News article
  - d. Q&A
  - e. Feature
  - f. Investigative report
  - g. Informational graphic (map, timeline, bar graph, pie chart)
  - h. Video
  - i. Other:

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7. Readers need reporters to provide accurate, reliable and truthful information. They should easily understand the vocabulary and visuals.
  - a. Word choice should be appropriate for your readers and the subject. Technical terms or sports jargon may be used by the reporter, but be sure context and content aid understanding.
  - b. Avoid using terms that are high in connotation that will distract from the information whether in a news story or feature. For example, “fake news,” “illegal immigrant,” “Hillary-bashing” and “terrorism” can initiate debate of the term rather than discussion of the topic.

### Apply Journalistic Guidelines

Think like a journalist. Apply the guidelines that have been presented to the topic of American territories, commonwealths and possessions. Below are some possible places and topics.

**PUERTO RICO or U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS.** When hurricanes ravaged Puerto Rico and struck the U.S. Virgin Islands, many Americans did not know that residents there were eligible for the same federal assistance as hard-hit residents in Florida and Texas. Puerto Ricans and U.S. Virgin Islanders are American citizens. Have students and teachers from these islands moved into your community? What should your school community understand about these new students and faculty?

**GUAM.** When North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un aimed missiles at Guam, they were pointed at U.S. citizens. Do members of your student body have an understanding of Guam’s geographic, historic and current relations with the U.S.? Why should they?

### **AMERICAN SAMOA, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, WAKE ISLAND and U.S. POSSESSIONS.**

Within your school community, do you have family members who are military or scientists who are working in one of these locations? Or could you introduce the school community to the ethnic and cultural heritage of someone in your student body and faculty? This could be part of an “All Americans” series.

You are ready.

1. Select a topic and place.
2. Brainstorm an angle to pursue about the topic and place.
3. Do your research. Attend cultural events or museum exhibits.
4. Conduct interviews.
5. Write a draft.
6. Review the draft.
  - a. Is there a connection to your readers?
  - b. Is all information factual and balanced?
  - c. Do quotations add depth and perspective? Is attribution clear?
  - d. Consider diction and connotation. Be sure there are no distractors.
7. Conduct more research, interviews or observations, if needed.
8. Revise and share with an editor.
9. Enjoy watching readers and viewers read or listen to and discuss your reporting.