

CPI1 NEWS MEDIA TED talks : Paul Lewis on Citizen Journalism

1. According to Paul Lewis, what does « citizen journalism » mean for a) journalists and b) members of the public ? *(a) accepting that you can't know everything, allowing other people to be your eyes and ears ; b) not just being passive consumers of news but also co-producing news.*
2. Why is this an empowering process ? *(because it can allow ordinary people to hold powerful organisations to account.)*
3. Paul gives examples of two stories which he investigated in order to put out a more truthful version. What did they have in common ? *(they involved controversial deaths)*
4. Who was Ian Tomlinson ? *(a newspaper vendor from London)*
5. When and at what event did he die ? *(1st April 2009 at the G20 summit protest demonstration)*
6. Who was directly responsible for his death ? *(an officer from the London Metropolitan Police force)*
7. According to the official police statement, how did Ian Tomlinson die ? *(of natural causes)*
8. According to their statement, why were the police officers unable to resuscitate him ? *(because they were impeded by demonstrators throwing bottles)*
9. On what detail did the « Evening Standard »'s report differ from the police version ? *(bricks instead of bottles)*
10. Which social media did Paul Lewis use to find witnesses to this event ? *(Twitter)*
11. When Paul received photos from witnesses, what detail did they show that suggested the police were not telling the truth ? *(Ian Tomlinson appeared to be talking to the police while he was lying on the ground.)*
12. How many witnesses did Paul find after 6 days ? *(20)*
13. Who sent Paul the most significant evidence ? *(an investment fund manager from New York)*
14. What did his video recording show ? *(that Ian Tomlinson had his hands in his pockets, his back to the police, when he was struck from behind and propelled to the ground by a police officer.)*
15. What happened as a result of posting the video recording on the Internet ? *(the officer was charged with unlawfully killing Tomlinson)*
16. Who was Jimmy Mubenga ? *(a political refugee from Angola, living in London)*
17. What was the official version of his death ? *(he had become ill during the flight, the plane returned to Heathrow, where he was transferred to hospital and later died.)*
18. How did he really die ? *(from suffocation while being detained in the aircraft hold)*
19. Why does Paul say that journalism professors might disapprove of the articles he published in reaction to this event ? *(because they were sceptical, speculative in tone, designed to cause a stir.)*
20. Which other international news stories were rapidly spread via « citizen journalist » images ? *(the plane crash in the Hudson river, the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, the political crisis in the Middle East.)*