

Acts of Journalism 🧡

The New School's Journalism + Design lab has created an "acts of journalism" framework for thinking about local news ecosystems. Their list outlines "a set of community news roles that anyone can undertake on their own, or in partnership with newsrooms or other community-based organizations to keep their communities informed." (The framework was born out of partnership with community colleges and local media "to increase the flow of reliable news and information" by creating pathways for more people to participate in news production and distribution.)

Use the framework to evaluate similarities in how local news providers, other organizations and community members themselves can contribute to a local news and information ecosystem:

1. **Facilitating:** Facilitators cultivate community listening, conversation, and connection. They foster dialogue on local issues, surface community needs and priorities, and bring people together.
2. **Documenting:** Documenters record what's happening in a community. They document public meetings, community events and experiences and help preserve community history, information and knowledge.
3. **Commenting:** Commenters share their personal expertise or experience. They share things they know firsthand—lived or learned—to enhance the pool of knowledge people have about what's happening in their community, or as a means to advocate ideas for community betterment.
4. **Inquiring:** Inquirers ask questions and dig deeper. They seek out multiple perspectives and original sources of information to get more context and understanding on an issue and share what they learn. Sometimes they do this to challenge power and promote accountability.
5. **Sensemaking:** Sensemakers help their community understand and contextualize issues and events. They might do this by telling stories or making art—anything that helps other people make sense of what's happening in their community and why. They can also help translate information to make it more accessible and relevant.
6. **Amplifying:** Amplifiers curate, share and distribute news and information. They may also help elevate underrepresented community issues or needs. They do this through a variety of means, from word of mouth to print materials to sharing on social media.
7. **Navigating:** Navigators assist others in accessing the information and services they need. They help people navigate challenges by connecting them with resources and information to take action, find solutions and problem-solve.
8. **Enabling:** Enablers share their time and resources to support local news ecosystems. They indirectly inform their community by ensuring that other people are better able to produce and share reliable news and information. They may do this by subscribing or donating to a local news provider; sharing a physical space or resources like printers, art supplies or distribution tools; or training other people to act journalistically.

Source: ["This is local news now: Rethinking who creates, shares, and sustains it,"](#) Anika Anand and Darryl Holliday, Commoner Company with support from Press Forward, (August 2025)