



COVERAGE ANALYSIS REPORT

How the Matthew Farwell trial was covered

A structural reading of 28 articles, by stage of the case.

PREPARED BY

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PREPARED FOR

Sample, built on public coverage

SAMPLE REPORT

October 26, 2026. This sample shows what a Coverage Analysis Report looks like. It describes how the articles are written, not who is right in the matter, and not whether any party or outlet is right or wrong.

At a glance

28 articles from 7 outlets, read by Frametra's on-device engine across six structural signals.

77

average structural score,
range 61 to 90

24 of 28

articles with no charged
words at all

36–100

range in source attribution
scores across articles

8 of 28

articles with full claim
restraint

WHAT THE NUMBERS SHOW

- 1 The tone was measured.** Neutral language averaged 99.3 out of 100, and every article scored 92 or above. 24 of the 28 articles used none of the engine's charged words; the other four used one each.
- 2 Sourcing varied widely, and followed the outlet.** Source attribution ran from 36 to 100, with 9 articles below 50 and 3 at 80 or above. Boston 25's eight articles averaged 75, NBC Boston's eight 57, the Globe's three 53 and Boston.com's six 44.
- 3 Length mattered.** The 19 articles under 600 words averaged 68 on sourcing; the 9 at 600 words or more averaged 47. The four longest, at 1,395 to 1,756 words, scored 39 to 41. All three scores of 100 came from articles under 310 words.
- 4 Same proceeding, different sourcing.** Six articles on the opening statements scored between 40 and 100 on sourcing. The 62-word item scored 100; the Boston.com and Globe pieces scored 40 and 44.
- 5 Claim restraint was lowest in short items about the trial's venue, date and start.** The average was 75, with 8 of 28 articles at full restraint. Articles from before the trial averaged 56; testimony coverage averaged 89. The four lowest were 0, 33, 43 and 43, all short items of 62 to 395 words about the trial's venue, date and start. The engine counts words such as "alleged" and "claims" against this signal.

SOURCING AND LENGTH, BY STAGE OF THE CASE

Before the trial	<div><div></div></div>	68 sourcing · 270 words
Jury selection and trial start	<div><div></div></div>	59 sourcing · 665 words
Opening statements	<div><div></div></div>	66 sourcing · 526 words
Testimony and live updates	<div><div></div></div>	57 sourcing · 855 words

How to read these scores. They describe how an article is built: its sourcing, wording and evidence. They do not say whether an article is accurate, fair or well-intentioned, and they are not grades.

The six signals, across all 28 articles

Average score for each signal, out of 100. Weights show how much each signal counts toward the structural score.



BY STAGE OF THE CASE

	ARTICLES	AVG WORDS	SCORE	SOURCING	CLAIM RESTRAINT	EVIDENCE	CHARGED WORDS
Before the trial	5	270	72	68	56	73	0.0
Jury selection and trial start	5	665	76	59	64	84	0.0
Opening statements	6	526	77	66	71	80	0.5
Testimony and live updates	12	855	79	57	89	86	0.1

Groups are small, so compare them as a pattern and not as a ranking.

BY ARTICLE LENGTH

	ARTICLES	AVG WORDS	SCORE	SOURCING	CLAIM RESTRAINT	EVIDENCE	CHARGED WORDS
Under 600 words	19	375	77	68	71	75	0.1
600 words or more	9	1219	77	47	82	97	0.2

Sourcing = source attribution. Evidence = figures and direct quotations. Charged words = average count per article.

BY OUTLET

	ARTICLES	AVG WORDS	SCORE	SOURCING	CLAIM RESTRAINT	EVIDENCE	CHARGED WORDS
Boston 25	8	455	84	75	90	84	0.2
NBC Boston	8	369	73	57	69	71	0.1
Boston Globe	3	816	77	53	75	85	0.0
Boston.com	6	1359	75	44	77	92	0.2
Other: WBUR, CBS Boston, Court TV	3	297	72	82	45	83	0.0

WBUR, CBS Boston and Court TV have one article each and are grouped.

Outlet by outlet

All 28 articles, grouped by stage of the case. Scores out of 100; values below 50 are shown in amber.

OUTLET	HEADLINE	WORDS	SCORE	SRC	LANG	CLM	HDG	EVD	ACT
Before the trial (5 articles)									
nbcboston.com	Matthew Farwell renews push to move trial out of Massachusetts	349	62	36	100	33	62	68	99
cbsnews.com	DOJ won't seek death penalty against Matthew Farwell in Sandra...	277	73	70	100	73	40	81	98
nbcboston.com	Trial date set for Sandra Birchmore's accused killer	257	69	73	100	43	59	71	94
nbcboston.com	Matthew Farwell's defense argues motion to dismiss in Sandra Bi...	215	72	63	100	63	90	62	93
boston25news.com	Trial date set for Matthew Farwell, ex-Stoughton officer accuse...	253	83	100	100	68	61	83	96
Jury selection and trial start (5 articles)									
bostonglobe.com	Here's how jury selection works in a federal murder trial like...	1043	79	56	100	63	92	100	97
boston.com	Jury selection begins for trial of Sandra Birchmore's alleged k...	422	71	56	100	63	53	55	95
bostonglobe.com	Jury selection begins in trial of Matthew Farwell for death of...	897	79	58	100	80	53	96	97
boston25news.com	Jurors begin screening process in high-profile trial of Matthew...	568	81	70	100	70	60	96	96
nbcboston.com	Start of Matthew Farwell trial delayed by a day. Here's why	395	68	54	100	43	59	71	98
Opening statements (6 articles)									
boston.com	Opening statements: Prosecutors allege Matthew Farwell killed S...	1395	72	40	98	65	63	100	98
wbur.org	Trial begins for former Stoughton cop charged with killing Sand...	62	61	100	100	0	40	68	100
nbcboston.com	Federal trial against Matthew Farwell begins	330	82	67	92	100	57	80	92
bostonglobe.com	Key takeaways from opening statements in the Matthew Farwell tr...	508	74	44	100	81	79	58	100
boston25news.com	'Truth will come out': Matthew Farwell's trial begins with duel...	440	87	75	94	100	65	87	98
boston25news.com	Prosecution, defense paint starkly different pictures of Birchm...	419	87	73	100	79	95	89	99
Testimony and live updates (12 articles)									
boston25news.com	6 witnesses take stand on first day of testimony in Matthew Far...	691	78	54	96	100	40	80	98
boston25news.com	Birchmore's friend takes stand in Matthew Farwell trial, recoun...	535	78	49	100	100	40	80	98
nbcboston.com	Sandra Birchmore's friend, Stoughton police chief testify in Ma...	351	72	63	100	71	40	47	97
courtstv.com	Sandra Birchmore's journal reveals disturbing writings	552	82	75	100	63	65	100	99
boston.com	Sandra Birchmore case: State trooper details initial investigat...	1711	78	41	100	80	89	100	98
boston.com	Sandra Birchmore case: Key witnesses take the stand in the tria...	1756	75	41	100	81	59	100	97
boston.com	Sandra Birchmore case: Graphic text messages, a list of baby na...	1142	76	47	100	78	55	100	98
boston.com	Matthew Farwell trial: Sandra Birchmore was carrying a 'viable'...	1726	77	39	100	95	52	100	97
boston25news.com	Matthew Farwell trial (live updates): Sandra Birchmore's former...	428	87	77	100	100	40	92	98
boston25news.com	Matthew Farwell trial (live updates): Stoughton Chief McNamara...	308	90	100	100	100	40	63	97
nbcboston.com	Recap: Birchmore's friend, Stoughton police chief testify in Fa...	448	78	53	100	100	54	67	95
nbcboston.com	Recap: Birchmore's friends, hairstylist share what she said abo...	607	79	46	100	100	40	100	98

Src source attribution · Lang neutral language · Clm claim restraint · Hdg calibrated hedging · Evd evidence signals · Act active voice

What a legal team can take from this

- **Where the tone held.** Neutral language stayed between 97 and 100 on average in every stage of the case.
- **Where the articles differed.** Sourcing, by outlet and by length. The longest articles named fewer sources per word than the short news items, and articles on the same day's proceedings carried very different amounts of attribution.
- **Where the language firmed up.** The lowest claim restraint scores came from short items about the trial's venue, date and start. That is common when an article relays charges and legal requests.
- **How a legal team can use this.** The sourcing and claim restraint columns show which articles name where their statements came from and which relay allegations or arguments without attribution, so counsel knows which pieces to read closely first when assessing pretrial publicity, a venue question or a defamation claim.

ABOUT THIS SET

The set runs from the setting of the trial date to the testimony stage. It includes an NBC Boston article headlined "Matthew Farwell renews push to move trial out of Massachusetts". This report takes no position on that request or on the case.

WHAT THIS SAMPLE DOES NOT COVER

This sample uses Frametra's free on-device engine, which reads each article's wording. It cannot say **who was quoted, how often sources were anonymous, whose voices were missing (the parties, the witnesses, the families), or whether a claim is accurate. It also does not measure what any member of the public or any juror read or believed.** A full Coverage Analysis Report adds a person-checked read of those questions, with the exact sentences behind each finding. It is a starting point for counsel, not expert testimony.

WHAT A FULL REPORT INCLUDES

- A coverage set built around your matter, by outlet and by date
- Source patterns, anonymity rates and missing voices, with the exact sentences behind each finding
- A comparison across the stages of the matter, as in this sample
- A check by a person before delivery, with turnaround agreed per matter and rush available for urgent filings

METHOD AND LIMITS

Each article was read from the public web page by Frametra's free engine, on the reader's device, and scored on six signals: source attribution (28% of the score), neutral language (25%), claim restraint (20%), calibrated hedging (10%), evidence signals (10%) and active voice (7%). Articles under 300 words carry a small length adjustment. Source attribution reflects the variety of attribution wording and linked citations relative to article length, so longer articles need more to score the same. Claim restraint falls when an article uses words such as "claims", "alleges" or "reportedly". The charged-word list is built for news wording and can flag terms that are descriptive in some stories. All 28 links returned readable text. The sample is a selection of public articles collected on October 26, 2026, not every article published, and it mixes news reports, wire-style briefs and long live-update pages, which are built differently. Compare groups of articles rather than single pages.

Frametra reports are an analytical aid. They are not expert testimony or legal, journalistic, medical or professional advice.