

Language matters

Oh, the irony! The Aug. 26 Thursday Opinion essay by DeAnna Hoskins and Zoë Towns, “How the language of criminal justice inflicts lasting harm,” cautioned against employing dehumanizing, desensitizing language to describe subjects and urged “news media and the general public to adopt more responsible and humane language.”

Then I turned to the Metro section and was immediately struck by the headline “Armed motorist killed by D.C. police.” Nothing in the article suggested that the victim, Antwan Gilmore, did anything that was an imminent threat to police (and subsequent information revealed that the gun was still tucked into his waistband), and yet the article adopted law enforcement’s self-serving spin and led with a headline that suggested the victim was the primary perpetrator.

The Post does it, too. It must do better.

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washingtonpost.com, 2021