This chapter analyses how urban regeneration stories are reported in the evening press. As we noted in the introduction, Bourdieu does not go deeply into the nature of journalistic discourse in his key book on the media, *On Television*. However, at various other points in his work, particularly in some of the essays contained in *Political Interventions*, the nature of journalistic discourse is more directly addressed. In particular, Bourdieu coins the concept of ‘paralogism’ as one means by which we might be able to identify how journalistic discourse is complicit in the imposition of symbolic violence. But in many more of these ‘interventions’ Bourdieu gives other partially formulated ideas about the political and linguistic dimensions of journalism which can be usefully deployed to extend his arguments on language into this field.

Questions relating to the reporting of urban regeneration and development are highly politically charged in contemporary society, and therefore are an important area of media analysis. Bourdieu himself directly recognized this when he addressed the relationship between the ‘intellectual and the city’ with reference to Husserl’s concern that the intellectual should try to act as a ‘functionary of humanity’ (Bourdieu et al. 2008: 207). Bourdieu’s concern with Husserlian ideas about the relationship between scientific and lay forms of language and reasoning introduced in Chapter 3, is therefore again referred to in this chapter as a means to criticize contemporary developments in the reporting of urban regeneration issues, since the press is concerned to report the ‘technical’ issues of regeneration to a largely lay readership.
The politics of the city press have become increasingly significant in recent years as George Monbiot notes:

For many years the local press has been one of Britain’s most potent threats to democracy, championing the overdog, mis-representing democratic choices, defending business, the police and local elites from those who seem to challenge them. (*The Guardian*, 10 November 2009)

Examining journalistic discourse in this area thus evokes important issues of ‘spatial’ rights and justice and this chapter engages with this topic in the context of the political and social debates on the role of regional print media. For a long time ideas of public communication, the public sphere, urban justice or ‘rights to the city’ have been dominated by Habermasian approaches (Forester 1993; Merrifield and Swyngedouw 1997). In Chapter 2 it was noted that an engagement between Habermas’s ideas on language and political communication and Bourdieu’s might prove fruitful. In this chapter this idea is developed by examining how Bourdieu’s ideas on the political role of journalism, both in analytical and prescriptive terms, provides an alternative source to address these issues. We will see that Bourdieu’s arguments on the ethics of journalistic practice provide a sociological form of understanding of performativity that contrasts to the ethico-philosophical reasoning characterizing Habermasian approaches (Habermas et al. 2004).

**Journalistic discourse and neo-liberalism in planning and urban regeneration**

Since the 1990s in the UK the role of the media and journalism has been enhanced in the process of planning and urban regeneration. City press journalism has moved beyond straightforward reporting, or comment, on these issues to a much greater *involvement* in them. In the immediate post-war years in the UK, a fairly rigid planning ‘regime’ placed the emphasis on regional, local and city governing authorities to initiate public consultation. Planning was a highly bureaucratized process carried out under the sway of local authorities and city council planning offices. But now the power of these essentially governmental-bureaucratic locations of planning has been