Best books for hacks – vote for the 8 tomes every journalist should read

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I have a pathological aversion to best-of lists, except, of course, when I am on one. An American University has compiled a long list of the finest works on journalism that they suggest are required reading for budding and practising hacks. You can vote for your eight favourites here.

Naturally, I am delighted that my own SuperMedia has made the cut, in the section described as ‘Journalism Critique’ alongside an all-time favourite of mine, George Orwell, and a contemporary influence, Jay Rosen.

I am not sure I deserve to be in such exalted company, but that shouldn’t stop you voting
for SuperMedia

On a more serious note, the survey sensibly allows you to suggest other works not on the list. This is good because it is a bit American, male and perhaps, overly serious.

So in keeping with the intellectual approach, I would offer a book that has underpinned my work here at Polis, Roger Silverstone’s Media and Morality.

For an understanding of the craft of writing, I would submit the immortal Keith Waterhouse Mirror Style Guide.

But perhaps you can learn more about journalism through satire – and because it is supposed to be fun, after all – I would offer the (inevitable) Evelyn Waugh Scoop and the less predictable, but equally hilarious and truthful, Towards The End of the Morning by Michael Frayn.

Make your choices here

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