

Talk of the University

Freedom of the Press/Media Literacy
Wednesday, October 4, 2017

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sponsors!



Ross Novak / Lia Palmiter
(Talk of the University)



To Do:

- Look at the current climate of press in US
- Examine how we got here #history
- Peel back the curtain on journalism
- Discuss strategies for critical consumption

**Can you name the FIVE Freedoms
guaranteed by the First Amendment?**

The First Amendment

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of **religion**, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of **speech**, or of the **press**; or the right of the people peaceably to **assemble**, and to **petition** the Government for a redress of grievances.”

22.5%

Number of Americans who think that First Amendment Protections go too far.

FROM: [The 2017 State of the First Amendment Report by The Newseum Institute](#)

Non-partisan: Attacks come from all sides

— — —
“**Conservatives** were more likely than liberals to **believe** that **government officials who leak** information **should be prosecuted** . . .

However, **liberals** were more likely than conservatives to **think that colleges should be able to ban speakers** with controversial views **and that people should not be able to express racist views on social media.**”

Why do we need a free press?

Backing up a step

There's a big difference between "the media" and "the press." Yet, too often, the two are unfairly equated.

Journalism is a dangerous job

2,305 journalists
have been killed in
line of duty since
1837

FROM:

<http://www.newseum.org/exhibits/online/journalists-memorial/>



Recent Attacks on 1A Press Freedoms

Trump, Calling Journalists ‘Sick People,’ Puts Media on Edge

Early Lead

White House: ESPN should fire Jemele Hill over Trump ‘white supremacist’ tweet

Trump calls for changes to libel laws in attack on New York Times



#FakeNews & Journalists as #EnemyofthePeople?



Donald J. Trump ✓

@realDonaldTrump

Follow

So they caught Fake News CNN cold, but what about NBC, CBS & ABC? What about the failing @nytimes & @washingtonpost? They are all Fake News!

5:47 AM - 27 Jun 2017

33,039 Retweets 110,715 Likes



39K 33K 111K



Donald J. Trump ✓

@realDonaldTrump

Follow

I refuse to call Megyn Kelly a bimbo, because that would not be politically correct. Instead I will only call her a lightweight reporter!

3:44 AM - 27 Jan 2016

7,327 Retweets 19,689 Likes



5.4K 7.3K 20K

[VIDEO from CNN: 2 years of Trump attacking the media](#)

No one is immune--not even college journalists

--Student journalists in universities across the country experience problems.

--The Wood Word is no stranger to criticism.

--College news outlets should be able to operate as private entities.

--Why do we practice journalism?

**How did we get here?
What does history tell us?**

The Press and the American Revolution

- Newspapers weekly, in major cities
- 1760: more than 20 weekly papers in British colonies
- Rise of a “continental” perspective
- Start of term “American”

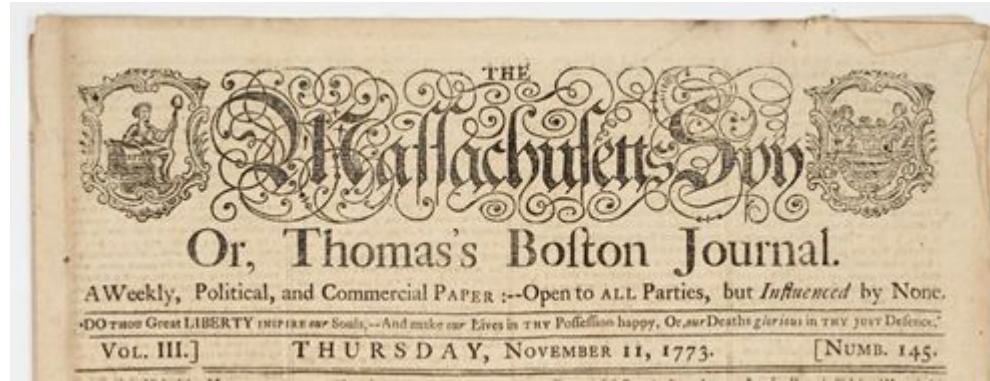


Image via American Antiquarian Society

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AND UNIVERSAL



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Image via Mount Vernon Ladies Association

The BLOODY MASSACRE perpetrated in King-Street BOSTON on March 5th 1770 by a party of the 29th REG^t



Engraved Printed & Sold by PAUL REVERE BOSTON

Unhappy Boston! see the Sons deplore,
 Thy hallow'd Walks befouled with guilt: Go
 Woe faithless En and his savage Bands,
 With murderous Rancour stretch their bloody Hands,
 Like fiercer barbarians grinning o'er their Prey,
 Approve the Carnage, and enjoy the Day.

If fealding drops from Rage from Anguish Whinge,
 If speechless Sorrows lab'ring for a Tongue
 Or if a weeping World can ought appease
 The plaintive Ghosts of Victims such as these:
 The Patriot's copious Tears for each are shed,
 A glorious Tribute which embalms the Dead.

But know, Earth's fissionments to that awful Goal,
 where Justice strips the Murderer of his Soul,
 Should venge the Scandal of the Land,
 Snatch the reluctant Victim from her Hand,
 Keen Executions on this Plate infernal,
 Shall reach a JUDGE who never can be brib'd.

The unhappy sufferers were Messrs SAM^l GRAY SAM^l MAVERICK, JAM^s CALDWELL, CRISPUS ATTUCKS & PAT^r CARE
 Killed Six wounded: two of them (CHRIST^o MONK & JOHN CLARK), Mortally

©authentichistory.com

Image via Massachusetts Historical Society

An Act in addition to the act, intituled "An act for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States."

Sec. 1. **B**E it enacted by the Senate and House

Penalty
on unlaw-
ful combi-
nations
to oppose
the mea-
sures of
govern-
ment, &c.

And with
such in-
tent coun-
selling,
&c. insur-
rections,
riots, &c.

of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That if any persons shall unlawfully combine or conspire together, with intent to oppose any measure or measures of the government of the United States, which are or shall be directed by proper authority, or to impede the operation of any law of the United States, or to intimidate or prevent any person holding a place or office in or under the government of the United States, from undertaking, performing or executing his trust or duty; and if any person or persons, with intent as aforesaid, shall counsel, advise or attempt to procure any insurrection, riot, unlawful assembly, or combination, whether such conspiracy, threatening, counsel, advice, or attempt shall have the proposed effect or not, he or they shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and on conviction, before any court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, and by imprisonment during a term not less than six months nor exceeding five years; and

Sedition Act of 1798

— — —

SEC. 2. And be it farther enacted, That if **any person shall write, print, utter or publish**, or shall cause or procure to be written, printed, uttered or published, or shall knowingly and willingly assist or aid in writing, printing, uttering or publishing **any false, scandalous and malicious writing or writings against the government of the United States, or either house of the Congress of the United States, or the President of the United States, with intent to defame the said government**, or either house of the said Congress, or the said President, or to bring them, or either of them, into contempt or disrepute; or to excite against them, or either or any of them, the hatred of the good people of the United States, or to stir up sedition within the United States,. . .then such person, being thereof convicted before any court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof, shall **be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment not exceeding two years.**



Image via Historical Society of Pennsylvania

THE PROVIDENTIAL DETECTION

THE
P R O S P E C T

BEFORE US.

[By J. D. Callender.]

NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY
G. W. WOODS, 10 NASSAU ST.
1840.

WHY, THEN, DOES AN ANGEL MOUNTAIN? BY
EVIDENCE OF HIERARCHY! A. B. B. B. B.

RICHMOND, - VIRGINIA.

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, AND SOLD BY M. JONES,
S. PLEASANTS, JUN. AND J. LYON. - 1840.

[PRICE ONE DOLLAR.]



Image via
National Portrait Gallery

Resolved, that all petitions, memorials, and papers touching the abolition of Slavery or the buying, selling, or transferring of Slaves, in any State, District or Territory of the United States, be laid upon the table without being debated, printed, read or referred and that no further action whatever shall be had thereon —

Image via Library of Congress

#FAKENEWS

Recognizing Fake News

6 WAYS TO EVALUATE INFORMATION

E

EVIDENCE

DO THE FACTS HOLD UP?

Look for information you can verify.

- Names
- Numbers
- Places
- Documents

S

SOURCE

WHO MADE THIS, AND CAN I TRUST THEM?

Trace who has touched the story.

- Authors
- Publishers
- Funders
- Aggregators
- Social media users

C

CONTEXT

WHAT'S THE BIG PICTURE?

Consider if this is the whole story and weigh other forces surrounding it.

- Current events
- Cultural trends
- Political goals
- Financial pressures

A

AUDIENCE

WHO IS THE INTENDED AUDIENCE?

Look for attempts to appeal to specific groups or types of people.

- Image choices
- Presentation techniques
- Language
- Content

P

PURPOSE

WHY WAS THIS MADE?

Look for clues to the motivation.

- The publisher's mission
- Persuasive language or images
- Moneymaking tactics
- Stated or unstated agendas
- Calls to action

E

EXECUTION

HOW IS THIS INFORMATION PRESENTED?

Consider how the way it's made affects the impact.

- Style
- Grammar
- Tone
- Image choices
- Placement and layout

So, how do journalists *actually* do their job?

1. By a Code of Ethics



Society of Professional Journalists

Improving and protecting journalism since 1909

--Seek Truth & Report It

--Minimize Harm

--Act Independently

--Be Accountable

FROM: <https://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp>

2. Through credible sourcing

Named sources are best. Unnamed sources used thoughtfully.

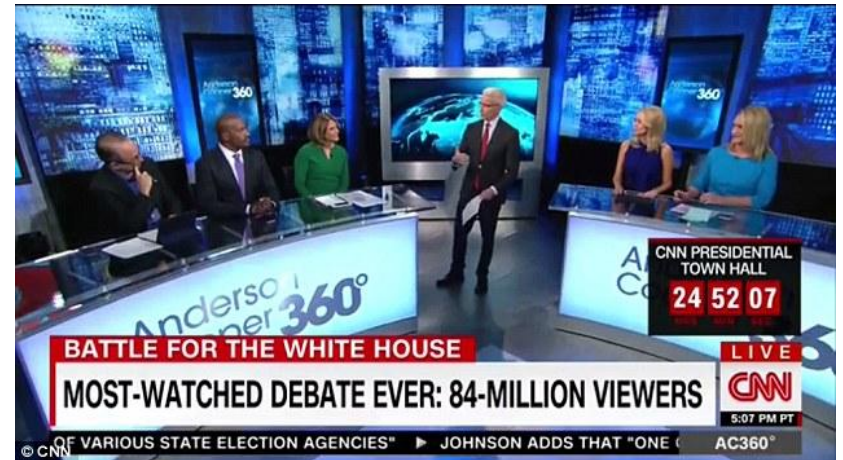
Know the ground rules:

- On the record
- Off the record
- Background
- Deep background

3. With fact-checking & verification

- Present assertions accurately; note they're being checked.
- Identify falsehoods.
- Follow facts with appropriate citation & attribution.
- Stick to facts, not opinions.
- Note when statements are “confirmed” or “unconfirmed”
- “Triangulate” -- confirm anonymous info with named sources when possible

Is our journalism perfect? Heck, no!



So, where does the ultimate responsibility lie?

--With government?

--With the consumer?

--With the press?

--With media execs & platforms like Facebook? / Twitter

--Others?



Power in America today is control
of the means of communication.

Theodore White

What can you do?



- Get involved in the conversation.
 - <https://www.spj.org/fight/>
- Be a critical consumer of the news.
 - <https://newseumed.org/>
- Think before you share.
 - <https://newseumed.org/activity/is-this-story-share-worthy-flowchart/>
- Know the rules of the game.
