

THE MODERN  
GUIDE FOR  
NAVIGATING  
THE NEWS

GATHERED AND DESIGNED  
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# WHAT THE HELL DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE NEWS?

As 24 hour news cycles began to become our new normal, the way we take in news has changed. According to Macalester's Michael Griffin, in the middle of the 20th century, television network leadership believed that providing news was a public service. News wasn't expected to make money for national broadcasters and as a result, the networks built up a strong nightly news broadcast with highly praised journalists which garnered millions of views each night.

By the 1980s and 1990s these News companies were bought by large conglomerations and companies. Whenever the company came in, the news divisions had to answer to shareholders and improve the bottom line. For the first time, there was an expectation that the news divisions had to make money, just like the entertainment divisions. A major way to improve the profitability of the news was to cut costs.

This was the start of the erosion of the concept and standards of quality news. With the addition of the Internet and social media sites, we have evolved to be taking in a constant stream of news, both factual and false. As of right now, fact-checking has been implemented in a few news agencies; however, most times it is ultimately up to the reader to make sure that the news they receive stays transparent, bias-free, and factual.

How do we have a way to accurately know whether or not our news agencies are being diligent to fact-check our news?







WE DEMAND  
VOTING RIGHTS  
NOW!

BEFORE  
WE WILL BE  
BURIED  
OUR GRAVES

END  
SEGREGATED  
RULES  
IN  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

THE UNITED STATES

# YOUR RIGHTS ARE GUARANTEED

According to Annenberg Public Policy Center, 37 % of Americans can't name any of the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment and 53% incorrectly think immigrants who are here illegally do not have any rights under the U.S. Constitution. People in the United States have a right to know what is and isn't protected whether you are a citizen or not. This part of the booklet will discuss the Bill of Rights and what it means in layman's terms.

## WHAT EVERYONE IS GUARANTEED BECAUSE OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS:

- To express Ideas through speech, religion, and press
- To have The Right to Assemble peacefully and protest
- To Ask the Government to do Better and write better laws
- To Buy and keep weapons personally
- To Have the government upkeep their military
- To Not have soldiers in your home without permission
- To have the right to a fair and speedy trial by jury
- To be informed of charges before arrest
- To be represented in a court of law by a lawyer
- To not have excessive fines or bail set before you
- To not have cruel punishment brought upon you
- To retain the rights stated in the constitution, even if you are not a citizen
- To have powers outside of the constitution that are not listed



## POLICE AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Taking photographs and video of things that are plainly visible in public spaces is a constitutional right—and that includes transportation facilities, the outside of federal buildings, and police and other government officials carrying out their duties.

Police officers may order citizens to cease activities that are truly interfering with legitimate law enforcement operations. Professional officers, however, realize that such operations are subject to public scrutiny, including by citizens photographing them. This means it does not give you the right to break the laws to take photographs or video.

If stopped for photography, the right question to ask after being questioned is, "Am I free to go?" Until you ask to leave, your being stopped is considered voluntary under the law and is legal. If the officer says no, then ask if you are being detained. This is something that under the law an officer cannot do without reasonable suspicion.

If you are being detained, politely ask what crime you are suspected of committing. Remind the officer during the process that taking photographs is your right under the First Amendment and does not constitute reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.

Police officers may not confiscate or demand to view your photographs or video without a warrant. A court may authorize a warrant; however, the search and seizure of a camera will only happen if police have a reasonable belief that it contains evidence of a crime by someone other than the police themselves.

If you happened to capture something that you think could be evidence, you should turn it into the police.

If you are arrested, the contents of your phone or camera may be scrutinized by the police, although their right to do so remains unsettled. Your work is copyrighted by you as soon as you create it so police may not delete your photographs or video under any circumstances.



# YOUR NEWS IS GUARANTEED...

According to AllSides.com, more than 70 percent of Americans believe traditional news sources report fake news, falsehoods, or content that is purposely misleading. With trust in media declining, media consumers must learn how to spot types of media bias.

Journalism is tied to a set of ethical standards and values, including truth and accuracy, fairness and impartiality, and accountability; however, it often strays from objective fact and results in bias. Let's take a look at what kinds of biases we have in the news system:

## » Left

Sources with a Left media bias rating are most likely to show favor for access to government services, taxing the wealthy elite, and upholding civil rights – like abortion.

## » Left Lean

Sources with a Left-Lean media bias rating are most likely to show favor for the same reasons Left media biases support, but they are much more moderate about their causes.

## » Center

A Center media bias rating means the source or writer rated does not predictably publish perspectives favoring either end of the political spectrum — conservative or liberal. Center doesn't mean better!

## » Right Lean

Sources with a Right-Lean media bias rating are most likely to show favor for the same reasons Right media biases support, but they are much more moderate about their causes.

## » Right

Sources with a Right media bias rating are most likely to show favor for decreasing government involvement, decreasing taxes, and upholding traditional family values.

**Bias isn't necessarily a bad thing, but hidden media bias can mislead, manipulate, and divide us more than we already have been. AllSides has laid out 11 types of media bias to look for. Here are some of the ways the media show its bias:**

» **Spin**

This uses vague, dramatic, or sensational language to stray from objective facts. It can also imply bad behavior or put in emotions. An example would be using "groaned" instead of "said."

» **Unsubstantiated Claims**

Statements are being made that look factual, but don't include evidence to support it. This is truly when the news is "fake."

» **Opinions Stated as Fact**

This is when personal opinions, assumptions, or other beliefs are presented as reality but cannot be verified using concrete facts. An example would be using the phrase "is considered to be."

» **Sensationalism**

Information is presented in a way that shocks a viewer or makes a deep impression. It often involves hyperbole and warping reality. This can be shown in words like "scathing" or "chaotic."

» **Ad Hominem**

This is when unfair or insulting things are said about someone in order to hurt their reputation or discredit them. It is also called mudslinging.

» **Mind Reading**

This is when a writer assumes they know what a person thinks. This can be shown when interpreting a written statement since tone cannot be used.

» **Slant**

Slant happens when journalists only report on part of a story to fit side or narrative and ignores another's perspective.

» **Flawed Logic**

Flawed logic involves jumping to conclusions to misrepresent people's opinions and arriving at a conclusion that doesn't follow the narrative.

» **Omission**

Not covering a certain story or not providing context to one – including naming sources – is also considered bias. The Media omits stories in order to serve a political agenda and use phrases like "critics say."

» **Placement**

Where the story is featured on the site and which perspectives and viewpoint an outlet chooses to display or hide is blatant bias.

**...TO BE BIASED**

# RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

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