



## News & Media Activism

Greetings!

American Democracy cannot survive without an objective and unbiased press. Unfortunately, the mainstream and social media where most Americans get their news exhibit an unprecedented Progressive bias. Each of us interested in continuing the American Exceptionalism, as envisioned by the nation's Founding Fathers, must engage these biased news sources and hold them accountable to the TRUTH!

### Where Americans Get Their News

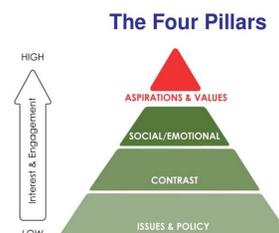
Of the [55% of Americans who obtain their news from TV](#), evening network newscasts from [ABC, CBS, and NBC](#) dominate with a [four-to-one advantage](#) over the highest rated shows on the three cable news channels (CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC). [Online news sources have surpassed radio and newspapers](#) with respective audiences of 39%, 33%, and 29%. For American adults under thirty, [social media has far surpassed newspapers and equals TV](#) as a primary source of daily news.

### Historical Role of a Free Press

The importance of a free and objective press has always been recognized to be an important foundation of Democracy. An unfettered and free press is the best guarantee for a free society. This right is protected by our First Amendment which states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting

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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." IN 1974, Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart stated that the primary purpose of the First Amendment was "to create a fourth institution outside the government as an additional check on the three official branches".

The Founding Fathers recognized that it is a fundamental right of citizens to be informed about all sides of an issue without government interference. A self-governing society relies on truthful information and an open exchange of ideas in order to make decisions. To that point, Abraham Lincoln stated: "Let the people know the facts, and the country will be safe." Consequently, it is imperative that journalists pursue fair renditions of the truth without political bias and regard to the popular mood. Additionally, the press should be able to collect and report news without fear or favor from the government or its officials. Thomas Jefferson felt so strongly about the importance of a free press that he stated: "If it were left to me to decide whether we should have a government without a free press or a free press without a government, I would prefer the latter."

### **Current Issue of Biased Reporting**

Much of the public narrative in society is driven by news reporting that has become ever-more biased with an unmistakable Progressive agenda. Many news sources appear to be guided by common talking-points when reporting the news, as evidenced by use of identical keywords. Facts appear to no longer be held in the same journalistic high esteem, as evidenced by much incorrect and biased reporting during rapidly developing events. In September, 2012, Brent Bozell, president of the Media Research Center, stated: "In the quarter century since the Media Research Center was established to document liberal media bias, [there has never been a more brazen and complete attempt by the liberal so-called 'news' media to decide the outcome of an election.](#)"

The [Media Research Center](#) reports the following methods used by reporters to bias their reporting:

- **Bias by Commission:** A pattern of passing along assumptions or errors that tend to support a left-wing or liberal view.
- **Bias by Omission:** Ignoring facts that tend to disprove liberal or left-wing claims, or that support conservative beliefs.
- **Bias by Story Selection:** A pattern of highlighting news stories that coincide with the agenda of the Left

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*"The man who reads nothing at all is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers."*

**- Thomas Jefferson**

*"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."*

**- Thomas Jefferson to Charles Yancey, 1816**

*"A nation of well-informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins."*

**- Ben Franklin**

*"It is to me a new and consolatory proof that wherever the people are well-informed they can be trusted with their own government; that whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights."*

**-Thomas Jefferson to Richard Price, January 8, 1789.**

*"The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty."*

**- James Madison**

while ignoring stories that coincide with the agenda of the Right.

- **Bias by Placement:** A pattern of placing news stories so as to downplay information supportive of conservative views.
- **Bias by the Selection of Sources:** Including more sources in a story who support one view over another. This bias can also be seen when a reporter uses such phrases as "experts believe," "observers say," or "most people think."
- **Bias by Spin:** Emphasizing aspects of a policy favorable to liberals without noting aspects favorable to conservatives; putting out the liberal interpretation of what an event means while giving little or no time or space to explaining the conservative interpretation.
- **Bias by Labeling:** Attaching a label to conservatives but not to liberals; using more extreme labeling for conservatives than for liberals; identifying a liberal person or group as an "expert" or as independent.
- **Bias by Policy Recommendation or Condemnation:** When a reporter goes beyond reporting and endorses the liberal view of which policies should be enacted, or affirms the liberal criticism of current or past policies.

The Progressive bias of TV's evening network news is complimented by the fact that many more American adults get their news online or through social media, both of which are much populated by Progressive points-of-view.

### **Citizens' Corrective Actions**

To counter the overwhelming Progressive bias in news reporting, those interested in objective reporting must engage the news sources and participate in the online discussions and social media. We must correct the mainstream news' Progressive agenda and public narrative to assure all citizens are privy to the truth. We must challenge the mainstream news talking-points with effective and accurate information. We must promote conservative principles with logic and truth.

In addition to engaging in the news conversations to counter Progressive bias, citizens have further recourse by contacting news organization "ombudsmen", who are in-house critics employed to hear public complaints. Yet another recourse to biased reporting is to create citizens' councils which review public complaints about the press and issue verdicts. They do not carry the force of law, but tend to be covered widely, especially now with the Internet.

All of the above, of course, requires that we access news sources other than the ones we normally view, read, or listen to. It is human nature to surround ourselves with self-

*"Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains to bring it to light."*

**- George Washington**

*"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."*

**- James Madison**

*"In the quarter century since the Media Research Center was established to document liberal media bias, there has never been a more brazen and complete attempt by the liberal so-called 'news' media to decide the outcome of an election."*

**-Brent Bozell, President of the Media Research Center, September, 2012**

*"If it were left to me to decide whether we should have a government without a free press or a free press without a government, I would prefer the latter."*

**- Thomas Jefferson**

*The primary purpose of the First Amendment was "to create a fourth institution outside the government as an additional check on the three official branches".*

**-Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart in 1974**

*"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."*

**- First Amendment of Constitution**

reinforcing people or news. We must pursue the above-suggested corrective actions, knowing Americans hunger for truth! For if we are not able to assure that news media provides objective reporting as a public service, true Democracy will not survive!

*"Let the people know the facts, and the country will be safe."*

**- Abraham Lincoln**

Please share this newsletter broadly with your relatives, friends, neighbors, organization, and associates. We must assure that all like-minded liberty-oriented individuals and organizations are aware of the best practices for [Neighborhood Activism](#) and [Neighborhood / Precinct Organizing](#). To facilitate sharing, just click on the Facebook, Twitter, etc. icons on our home page.

In liberty,  
[The Voices Of America](#)

[Peter H. Wolf](#) & [Warren A. Edstrom](#)

TheVoicesOfAmerica.org provides Neighborhood Activism & Neighborhood/ Precinct Organizing best-practices training to all liberty-oriented individuals and organizations nationally. The website is the only comprehensive Neighborhood Activism & Neighborhood/ Precinct Organizing training website on the internet and is the top Google search result for "precinct organizing". Our [newsletter currently reaches like-minded individuals and leaders in over forty-seven states](#).

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