

For my final project, I am looking at if journalists should strive to influence world events? Throughout my process of research, I explored many different historical events such as The Pentagon Papers, Watergate, and The Maine Ship. I also took a look into the present with how President Trump has reacted and treated the media. I wanted to explore historical events that had the truth but also the instances where yellow journalism was present. This topic also allowed me to say my own opinion and how I feel about journalists influencing world events. My topic is interesting because it takes a look at the media and how much of a role it plays in society.

When exploring my topic of journalism I thought about photojournalism. That helped make my decision to use the medium of photography also because I was doing a newspaper and wanted to use my own photos. The photos all relate back to my main topic of journalism and the view in which we see things. Each one of them shows different aspects of journalism. Photography allows viewers to be able to have different perspectives on work which will make the work very interesting.

Journalism is insanely important in our society. I want my viewer to understand how important journalism is and that we need to cherish it. Journalism helps us be better informed about what is going on in our society and the world. Journalism is important because it signifies freedom. It is a beacon for the First Amendment which gives us freedom of speech, press, and more. Without the first amendment, we wouldn't really be a democracy.

Chloe S.

Grand View-On-Hudson, New York

Journalism's Effect on World Events

Chloe S.



“Should a journalist
strive to influence world
events?”

The Newspaper

Late Edition

Today, cloudy, warm, high 71
Tonight, cloudy, chilly, low 42
Tomorrow, sunny, warm, high 62

New York, Sunday, May 3rd, 2020

Opinion Piece

By: **Chloe Scotson**

I feel very strongly about journalism because it is the career path I would like to take in the future. Journalists bring up a lot of questions that they ask and are asked of them. One thing we see a lot is journalism influencing world events but should they be allowed? A journalist should strive to influence world events. Journalism is there in order to help keep our country in check and inform the public. I'm not saying that it doesn't get complicated because there is a line where when journalism has gotten involved sometimes it has led to catastrophic events. This being said without journalism many important events would have never been known by the public. Some of the most cherished values we hold in the US is freedom of



New York Times Newspaper from all different times

speech and press. I believe that we should be allowed to say what we want and that includes publishing what we want. I understand that there is hate speech which I do not think is okay. I don't think that we should deliberately say things in order to hurt people but there is a difference to saying something to hurt someone and saying something to inform someone. I believe that every person has a right to know what is going on in the world. I know that somethings can't be released because of fear of hurting someone or something but the public has a

right to know what's going on in the world and especially their own government. I don't want anyone to get hurt so if there is a safety concern that is obviously where we draw the line but freedom of speech and press should whole heartedly be allowed. Who's right is it to say that you can't say this? We can't have one power control us. If we were told we can publish what the government doesn't want us to it wouldn't be much of a democracy would it. Throughout what a journalist does, influencing world events is a part of it. Even though it sometimes hasn't gone so well when a journalist has published things it has also done a tremendous amount of good. It has been a helper to our country and informed our citizens immensely. Journalism is an important part of our society that we should treasure.

Watergate

By: Chloe Scotson

Watergate all stems back to President Nixon. In 1972, there was a failed attempt to break-in at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters. It was discovered that it was 5 people who broke in and were convicted for an attempted burglary. It turns out that they actually broke into the Democratic National Committee Headquarters in order to steal documents and wiretap phones. Through investigation they were caught with money from the Nixon re-election campaign. The investigation took place by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, journalists working at the Washington Post. Watergate prompted the impeachment process of President Nixon. Watergate was a way that journalists unveiled the truth as investigators and published their findings. People no longer thought they could full heartedly trust the politicians like they use too. They could use media and journalism to keep their leaders accountable. Watergate forever changed journalism.

The Maine Ship

By: Chloe Scotson

In 1889, The Maine Ship was a Navy ship that sank in Havana. It was sent to Havana to protect United States interests during the Cuban War of Independence. American Newspapers claimed the ship was sunk by the Spanish, This led to the phrase being coined “Remember The Maine! To hell with Spain!” This contributed to the outbreak of the Spanish-American war. In 1976, a team of American naval investigators concluded that The Maine ship explosion was likely caused by a fire that ignited its ammunition stock and not by the Spanish. In this instance, Journalism helped lead to a catastrophic event, a war, and they published lies. We seem to question what journalism did that was good and does this reflect well on journalism? It is true that journalism led to a catastrophic event and journalism can be used for bad but we can't forget all the good it has done. Journalism allows people to say how they feel and share important events about the world.



Vietnam - The Pentagon Papers

By: Chloe Scotson

The Pentagon Papers were published by the Washington Post and other newspapers in an attempt to uncover the truth. The Pentagon Papers showed that the government lied about our involvement in Vietnam. The Pentagon Papers displayed many secrets that were being hidden from the public. Firstly, the Pentagon Papers suggested that the Vietnam war was unnecessary. It showed that JFK had actively helped overthrow and assassinate the South Vietnamese president Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963. During this time, the government was trying to stop the publishing of these papers as it was classified and they believed it was a risk for people to know. The papers were obtained from a man named Daniel Elsiberg. He worked for a company called RAND and the Department of Defense. He had access to the files and when he read what they said he believed that the public had a right to know. So years later he gave his copies to news companies for them to publish. The New York Times was the first to publish and went to court for it. It was then ruled that it was a part of the first amendment and they were allowed to publish. This led to the Washington Post publishing the rest of the Pentagon Papers they had. Journalism uncovered a hard truth in this instance. It helped in letting the public know the truth and teach them that you can't always believe what your leaders tell you.

President Trump's War on Media

By: Chloe Scotson

President Trump believes that news these days is “yellow” journalism. President Trump has directly attacked the media on multiple occasions during and prior to the pandemic. Direct quotes from Donald Trump: “I think I came up with this term, ‘Fake News’” he went on. “It’s corrupt news. . . . They’re saying we’re doing a great job, everybody’s saying, then you’ll read this phony story. . . . The press is very dishonest — they are siding with China, they are doing things they shouldn’t be doing.” President Trump has repeatedly shown that he does not support any media that goes against his administration. A step that has gone too far is that President Trump has openly supported a politician body slamming a reporter. President Trump repeatedly keeps calling out the news and saying it’s fake. He will not let go of the fact that he believes it is all fake and you cannot believe it. In this day in age, journalism is either highly looked upon or believed that it is fake and trash. Journalism gets less credit in recent years than it did when it first started uncovering things. We need to realize that journalism is important and we need all opinions and sides in order for us to have an opinion and a side ourselves.



What Deems Something Newsworthy?

By: Chloe Scotson

To figure out if news is newsworthy, there are criteria used in order to figure out what news is. One factor is timeliness; this means immediate and current information and events. Next is proximity which is local information and events. Conflict and controversy are terms also used to determine if something is newsworthy. They refer to when violence strikes or when people argue. Human Interest is a big part of news. This means people are interested in other people so news stories about that are considered to be newsworthy. Relevance is key in the news and it means information that helps them make good decisions. These are all key factors that play an important part into whether something is newsworthy or not.

First Amendment

By: Chloe Scotson

“The First Amendment guarantees freedom concerning religion, expression, assembly, and the right to petition. It forbids Congress from both promoting one religion over others and also restricting an individual’s religious practices. It guarantees freedom of expression by prohibiting Congress from restricting the press or the rights of individuals to speak freely. It also guarantees the right of citizens to assemble peaceably and to petition their government.”

The First amendment is extremely important in keeping our country a democracy not only does it give freedom of speech and press but also freedom of religion. The first amendment allows us to say and publish what we want without the government being able to stop us.