



## **Definitions for reading, watching, listening to and writing about the news.**

News—newly received or noteworthy information, especially about recent or important events.

Press—news newspapers or journalists viewed collectively; coverage in newspapers and magazines.

Press corps—a group of journalists representing various publications who regularly cover the same beat; for example, the White House press corps, see: <http://www.whca.net/> WHCA White House Correspondents' Association.

Press conference—an interview given to journalists by a prominent person in order to make an announcement or answer questions

Press box—an area reserved for journalists at a sports event.

Press gallery—a place reserved for journalists observing the proceedings in a legislature or court of law.

Press kit—a package of promotional material provided to members of the press to brief them, esp. about a product, service, or candidate.

Press release—an official statement issued to newspapers giving information on a particular matter.

Correspondent—a person employed to report for a newspaper or broadcasting organization, typically on a particular subject or from a particular country

News correspondent—a correspondent generally includes some of his/her own perspective on the news. For example, a correspondent is expected to provide considerable context to the events being chronicled. A reporter, on the other hand, offers largely fact-based reporting. (Wikipedia)

News bureau—a subsidiary office of a newspaper, news agency, or other media organization, which is responsible for covering news items in the area in which it is located.

Reporter—a person who reports, especially one employed to report news or conduct interviews for newspapers or broadcasts. A person who gives or brings back an account of an event, situation, or fact.

Photojournalism—the art or practice of communicating news by photographs, especially in magazines.

Photojournalist—a journalist or photographer who specializes in the journalistic use of photographs.

Journalism—the activity or profession of writing for newspapers or magazines or of broadcasting news on radio or television. The product of such activity.



Journalist—one who earns his living by editing or writing for a public journal or journals. See: <https://www.nyfa.edu/student-resources/top-12-influential-journalists-today/> and <http://journalism.nyu.edu/about-us/news/the-100-outstanding-journalists-in-the-united-states-in-the-last-100-years/>

Author—a writer of a book, article, or report; the editor of a journal.

Authority—a person with extensive or specialized knowledge about a subject; an expert.

An authoritative piece of writing—a book, etc., accepted as a source of reliable information or evidence, especially one used to settle a question or matter in dispute.

Authenticity—the fact or quality of being true or in accordance with fact; actuality, reality.

Truth—something that conforms with fact or reality.

Fact or facts— items of information used or usable as evidence; information used as evidence or as part of a report or news article.

That which is known (or firmly believed) to be real or true; what has actually happened or is the case; truth attested by direct observation or authentic testimony; reality.

A thing that has really occurred or is actually the case; a thing certainly known to be a real occurrence or to represent the truth. Hence: a particular truth known by actual observation or authentic testimony, as opposed to an inference, a conjecture, or a fiction; a datum of experience, as distinguished from the conclusions that may be based on it.

The actual occurrence of an event; the real existence of a situation or state of affairs.

A true statement.

Interpretation—the action of explaining the meaning of something, “the interpretation of data”

Bias—a one-sided tendency or direction to; to incline to one side; to influence, affect (often unduly or unfairly).

Statistics—the branch of political science concerned with the collection, classification, and discussion of (especially numerical) *facts* bearing on the condition of a state or community.

Data—facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis.

Information—knowledge communicated concerning some particular fact, subject, or event; that of which one is apprised or told; intelligence, news.



**Knowledge**—information and skills acquired through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject. What is known in a particular field or in total; facts and information; true, justified belief; certain understanding, as opposed to opinion.

**Objectivity**—the quality or character of being objective; especially the ability to consider or represent facts, information, etc., without being influenced by personal feelings or opinions; impartiality.

**Opinion**—a belief, view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge. What or how one thinks about something; a disputable point. Professional advice; a formal statement of advice by an expert on a professional matter.

**Public opinion**—an opinion held by the majority of people; views prevalent among the public; what is generally thought about something. Conviction held by the majority of or many people.

**Legitimate source**—is credible; reliable, accurate, and trustworthy. (see OWL Purdue, <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/588/02/>)

**Investigative reporting**—of journalism or a journalist—inquiring intensively into and seeking to expose malpractice, the miscarriage of justice, or other controversial issues.

**Media (mass media)**—the main means of mass communication, especially newspapers, radio, and television, regarded collectively; the reporters, journalists, etc., working for organizations engaged in such communication.

**Mass communication**—a social science; the study of mass media and how the public is affected by the content. (Wikipedia)

**Editor**—a person who is in charge of and determines the final content of a text, particularly a newspaper or magazine.

**Editorial**—of or relating to a section in a newspaper, often written by the editor, that expresses an opinion.

**Columnist**—a journalist who contributes regularly to a newspaper or magazine.

**Newscaster**—a person who reads out the news on radio or television.

**Spokesperson**—a person who speaks for or on behalf of another or others.

**Speaker**—one who speaks formally before a number of persons; one who addresses an audience.



Talk show—a television or radio show in which various topics are discussed *informally* and listeners, viewers, or the studio audience are invited to participate in the discussion. (For example, talk radio—discussion of topical or controversial issues, and usually featuring listeners who call in by telephone to air their *opinions*.)

Commentator—a person who reports or comments on current events, especially on television or radio.

Broadcaster—a person whose speech, performance, etc., is broadcast on radio or television; also, a broadcasting company or station.

Pundit—an expert in a particular subject or field, especially one frequently called upon to give his or her *opinion* to the public; a commentator, a critic.

Truthiness—the quality of appearing to be true while not actually or necessarily being so; the fact or quality of accepting or presenting something which is not true as the truth.

Post-truth—relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief. (Oxford *Living Dictionaries*: English)

Misinformation—wrong or misleading information; false or inaccurate information, especially in order to deceive.

Tabloid—a newspaper having pages half the size of those of a standard newspaper, typically popular in style and dominated by headlines, photographs, and sensational stories; sensational in a lurid or vulgar way.

Tabloid journalism—tabloid journalism is a style of journalism that emphasizes sensational crime stories, gossip columns about celebrities and sports stars, junk food news and astrology. Tabloid journalism often concerns itself with the private lives of celebrities, including their sexual practices and drug use. In many cases, celebrities have successfully sued for libel, demonstrating that tabloid stories have defamed them. (Wikipedia)

Cult of personality—a misplaced or excessive admiration for a particular person or thing. A collective obsession with, or intense, excessive, or uncritical admiration for, a particular public figure, especially a political leader; the instigation of such an obsession. Frequently associated with totalitarian leaders (Stalin, for example) and their idealized portrayal by means of propaganda, manipulation of the mass media, etc.

Conspiracy theory—a belief that some covert but influential organization is responsible for an unexplained event.

Agitprop—political (originally communist) propaganda, esp. in art or literature. (Origin: 1930s; Russ., blend of agitatsiya ‘agitation’ and propaganda) More generally: political propaganda of any kind.



Propaganda—the systematic dissemination of information, especially in a biased or misleading way, in order to promote a political cause or point of view. Also: information disseminated in this way; the means or media by which such ideas are disseminated.

Yellow journalism—journalism that is based upon sensationalism and crude exaggeration.

*Yellow journalism*, or the *yellow press*, is a type of *journalism* that presents little or no legitimate well-researched news and instead uses eye-catching headlines to sell more newspapers. Techniques may include exaggerations of news events, scandal-mongering or sensationalism. (Wikipedia)

Sensationalism (in journalism)—the use of exciting or shocking stories or language at the expense of accuracy, in order to provoke public interest or excitement.

Freedom of the press (free press)—freedom to print and publish anything without interference or censorship, esp. when regarded as a right.

Freedom of speech (free speech)—freedom to express one's opinions without censorship, legal penalty, or any other restraint, esp. when regarded as a right.

Libel—a published false statement that is damaging to a person's reputation; a written defamation; the action or crime of publishing such a statement; a false and malicious statement about a person; a thing or circumstance that brings undeserved discredit on a person by misrepresentation. Compare with slander.

Slander—the action or crime of making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation; a false and malicious spoken statement. Compare with libel.

Censorship—the practice of officially examining books, movies, etc., and suppressing unacceptable parts.

DEFINITIONS ARE FROM [Oxford English Dictionary](#) or Oxford American College Dictionary via [EBSCOhost eBook Collection](#) unless otherwise noted.

And, note: **Authority is Constructed and Contextual** (Frame 1 from the Association of College & Research Libraries—ACRL, a division of the American Library Association's—ALA's [Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education](#))

Information resources reflect their creators' expertise and credibility, and are evaluated based on the information need and the context in which the information will be used

*Authority is constructed in that various communities may recognize different types of authority.*

It is contextual in that the information need may help to determine the level of authority required.



### **Information Creation as a Process (Frame 2)**

Information in any format is produced intentionally to convey a message and is shared via a selected delivery method. The iterative processes of researching, creating, revising, and disseminating information vary, and the resulting product reflects these differences.

### **Information Has Value (Frame 3)**

Information possesses several dimensions of value, including as a commodity, as a means of education, *as a means to influence*, and as a means of negotiating and understanding the world. Legal and socioeconomic interests influence information production and dissemination.

### **Research as Inquiry (Frame 4)**

Research is iterative and depends upon asking increasingly complex or new questions whose answers in turn develop additional questions or lines of inquiry in any field.

### **Scholarship as Conversation (Frame 5)**

Communities of scholars, researchers, or professionals engage in sustained discourse with new insights and discoveries occurring over time as a result of varied perspectives and interpretations.

### **Searching as Strategic Exploration (Frame 6)**

Searching for information is often nonlinear and iterative, requiring the evaluation of a broad range of information sources and the mental flexibility to pursue alternate avenues as new understanding is developed.

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Also consider:

Native advertising—when an advertisement appears to be an actual news article. See [Wojdyski, Bartosz W., and Guy J. Golan. "Native Advertising and the Future of Mass Communication." \*American Behavioral Scientist\* 60.12 \(2016\): 1403-1407.](#)

Echo chamber—"In news media, the term echo chamber is analogous with an acoustic echo chamber, where sounds reverberate in a hollow enclosure. An echo chamber is a metaphorical description of a situation in which information, ideas, or beliefs are amplified or reinforced by communication and repetition inside a defined system. Inside a figurative echo chamber, official sources often go unquestioned and different or competing views are censored, disallowed, or otherwise underrepresented." (Wikipedia)