

BEST QUOTES ON JOURNALISM

I still believe that if your aim is to change the world, journalism is a more immediate short-term weapon.

--Tom Stoppard

A drop of ink makes thousands think.

--Robert S. Abbott

Of all the myths of journalism, objectivity is the greatest.

--Bill Moyers

We don't print the truth. We don't pretend to print the truth. We print what people tell us. It's up to the public to decide what's true.

--Benjamin C. Bradlee

Sunshine is the best disinfectant.

—Louis Brandeis

Digital media are in nearly every way superior to paper and ink, and represent, in essence, an upgrade in technology. But those giant presses and barrels of ink and fleets of delivery trucks were never what made newspapers invaluable. What gave newspapers their value was the mission and promise of journalism—the hope that someone was getting paid to wade into the daily tide of manure, sort through its deliberate lies and cunning half-truths, and tell a story straight.

--Mark Bowden

In recent years, both print and broadcast journalism have been the subject of a growing if irrational suspicion—sometimes expressed in high places—that the press is somehow to blame for unhappy events and trends, merely because it performs its duty of reporting them.

--William S. Paley

I have been reading the morning paper. I do it every morning—well knowing that I shall find in it the usual depravities and basenesses and hypocrisies and cruelties that make up civilization, and cause me to put in the rest of the day pleading for the damnation of the human race.

--Mark Twain

A newspaper is lumber made malleable. It is ink made into words and pictures. It is conceived, born, grows up and dies of old age in a day.

--Jim Bishop

So let us today drudge on about our inescapably impossible task of providing every week a first rough draft of history that will never be completed about a world we can never understand.

—Philip Graham

A newspaper is a circulating library with high blood pressure.

—Arthur ‘Bugs’ Baer

My only advantage as a reporter is that I am so physically small, so temperamentally unobtrusive, and so neurotically inarticulate that people tend to forget that my presence runs counter to their best interests.

—Joan Didion

The New York Times is a Pulitzer Prize winning blanket for homeless people.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

USA Today is the official doormat of hotel rooms throughout the United States.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

There are two sayings that are familiar in every news room across the country: 1) sex sells; 2) if it bleeds it leads.

--Armstrong Williams

I have the worst job in America, or so the experts say. Worse than a job putting down sick puppies. Worse than being a closer for the Cubs. Worse than working for Kardashians. Analyzing factors such as pay, hours, stress, physical demands and the outlook for future employment, CareerCast.com proclaims a newspaper reporter as the worst job, a step lower than being a lumberjack.

--Burt Constable

Some reporters credit their career choice to a thirst for justice and liberty and a desire to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. I credit mine to engineering camp, where I spent a week between my junior and senior years in high school. I didn't mind the engineering, but engineering camp made me realize I really didn't envision spending the rest of my life with engineers. Sharing work stories with newspaper reporters seems so much more entertaining.

--Burt Constable

Just because your voice reaches halfway around the world doesn't mean you are wiser than when it reached only to the end of the bar.

--Edward R. Murrow

The front page is a paper's most precious commodity. It helps set the nation's agenda.

--Jonathan Power

For the newspaper is in all literalness the bible of democracy, the book out of which a people determines its conduct. It is the only serious book most people read. It is the only book they read every day.

--Walter Lippmann

A news commentator spends his time explaining what would happen if something which isn't likely to happen should happen.

--Unknown

The average reporter is as accurate as the average man he interviews.

--Unknown

Consider children as a beat. Clearly not an institution of power, children don't vote and they don't pass taxes. They have no money, and they don't buy newspapers or watch the news on television. Consequently, children are one of the most neglected segments of society in the news, except as a subtopic of other power beats such as education, family, and crime. Children are in serious trouble in this society, which means the foundation of our society is in trouble, which means the future is in trouble, and that is news.

--Joan Konner

Journalism could be described as turning one's enemies into money.

--Craig Brown

I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.

--Rudyard Kipling

People don't actually read newspapers. They get into them every morning, like a hot bath.

--Marshall McLuhan

If Thomas Edison invented electric light today, Dan Rather would report it on CBS News as 'candle making industry threatened.'

--Newt Gingrich

My work is being destroyed almost as soon as it is printed. One day it is being read; the next day someone's wrapping fish in it.

--Al Capp

The emergence of the press as a power in American life is directly proportionate to the failure of the other branches of our society to perform their historic assigned functions.

--Norman Cousins

This is the age of the journalist, more than the age of the artist, the teacher, the pastor. It is the age of 'non-fiction' because imagination cannot keep up with the fantastic daily realities.

--Eric Sevareid

The real news is bad news.

--Marshall McLuhan

The difference between literature and journalism is that journalism is unreadable and literature is not read.

—Oscar Wilde

The view of the world offered by the press is primarily from the top down, not from the bottom up. That is why newspaper readership correlates directly with class and socioeconomic status—the rich subscribe far more than the poor, a demographic imbalance appreciated by advertisers.

--Richard Harwood

We are perpetuating ignorance by making TV news so easily assimilated that people do not go to print any longer. This is dangerous.

--Walter Cronkite

Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light.

--Joseph Pulitzer

The problem of journalism in America proceeds from a simple but inescapable bind: journalists are rarely, if ever, in a position to establish the truth about an issue for themselves, and they are therefore almost entirely dependent on self-interested 'sources' for the version of reality that they report.

--Edward Jay Epstein

To write weekly, to write daily, to write shortly, to write for busy people catching trains in the morning or for tired people coming home in the evening, is a heart-breaking task for men who know good writing from bad. They do it, but instinctively draw out of harm's way anything precious that might be damaged by contact with the public, or anything sharp that might irritate its skin.

—Virginia Woolf

For truth there is no deadline.

--Heywood Brown

Has any reader ever found perfect accuracy in the newspaper account of any event of which he himself had inside knowledge?

--E. V. Lucas

When a dog bites a man, that is not news, because it happens so often. But if a man bites a dog, that is news.

--John B. Bogart

Working as a journalist is exactly like being a wallflower at the orgy. I always seem to find myself at a perfectly wonderful event where everybody is having a marvelous time...and I am on the side taking notes on it all.

--Nora Ephron

The problem of media in the modern world is not that they don't get their stories right. They too often miss the right stories...They cover bad news. They don't cover good news very well or very often.

--Ben J. Wattenberg

Newspapers are the world's mirrors.

--James Ellis

The function of a good reporter is not to cover a story, but to uncover it.

--Herbert Bayard Swope

The First Duty of a newspaper is to be Accurate. If it be Accurate, it follows that it is Fair.

--Herbert Bayard Swope

Early in life I had noticed that no event is ever correctly reported in a newspaper.

--George Orwell

Journalism is the ability to meet the challenge of filling space.

--Rebecca West

A good newspaper is a nation talking to itself.

--Arthur Miller

He had been kicked in the head by a mule when young, and believed everything he read in the Sunday papers.

--George Ade

Journalism is literature in a hurry.

--Matthew Arnold

It is a newspaper's duty to print the news and raise hell.

--Wilbur F. Storey

The loss of liberty in general would soon follow the suppression of the liberty of the press; for it is an essential branch of liberty, so perhaps it is the best preservative of the whole.

--John Peter Zenger

No government ought to be without censors, and, where the press is free, no one ever will.

--Thomas Jefferson

An editor--a person employed on a newspaper, whose business it is to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to see that the chaff is printed.

--Elbert Hubbard

Newspapers have developed what might be called a vested interest in catastrophe. If they can spot a fight, they play up that fight. If they can uncover a tragedy, they will headline that tragedy.

--Harry A. Overstreet

What you see is news, what you know is background, what you feel is opinion.

--Lester Markel

Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one.

--A. J. Liebling

The first essence of journalism is to know what you want to know; the second, is to find out who will tell you.

--John Gunther

Today's reporter is forced to become an educator more concerned with explaining the news than with being first on the scene.

--Fred Friendly

Journalism: A profession whose business it is to explain to others what it personally does not understand.

--Lord Northcliffe

Newspapers always excite curiosity. No one ever lays one down without a feeling of disappointment.

--Charles Lamb

It is well to remember that freedom through the press is the thing that comes first. Most of us probably feel we couldn't be free without newspapers, and that is the real reason we want the newspapers to be free.

--Edward R. Murrow

The American reading his Sunday paper in a state of lazy collapse is perhaps the most perfect symbol of the triumph of quantity over quality...Whole forests are being ground into pulp to minister to our triviality.

--Irving Babbitt

The day of the printed word is far from ended. Swift as is the delivery of the radio bulletin, graphic as is television's eyewitness picture, the task of adding meaning and clarity remains urgent. People cannot and need not absorb meaning at the speed of light.

--Erwin Canham

The things that bother a press about a President will ultimately bother the country.

--David Halberstam

The only authors whom I acknowledge as American are the journalists. They, indeed, are not great writers, but they speak the language of their countrymen, and make themselves heard by them.

--Alexis de Tocqueville

Today's good newspaper is the raw material of tomorrow's history.

--Louis Fischer

Journalists are writers who have no education and disdain looking up words in dictionaries or subjects in encyclopedias, relying on their memories.

--Harry Golden

The making of a journalist: no ideas and the ability to express them.

--Karl Kraus

A journalist is stimulated by a deadline. He writes worse when he has time.

--Karl Kraus

News is history shot on the wing.

--Gene Fowler

A reporter is always concerned with tomorrow. There's nothing tangible of yesterday. All I can say I've done is agitate the air ten or fifteen minutes and then boom—it's gone.

--Edward R. Murrow

Evil report carries farther than any applause.

--Baltasar Gracian

If it's far away, it's news, but if it's close at home, it's sociology.

--James Reston

Have you noticed that life, real honest-to-goodness life, with murders and catastrophes and fabulous inheritances, happens almost exclusively in the newspapers?

--Jean Anouilh

Nowhere else can one find so miscellaneous, so various, an amount of knowledge as is contained in a good newspaper.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Journalism is popular, but it is popular mainly as fiction. Life is one world, and life seen in the newspapers another.

--G. K. Chesterton

A serious and profitable occupation, reading the papers. It removes everything abnormal from your make-up, everything that doesn't conform to accepted ideas. It teaches you to reason as well as the next person. It gives you irrefutable and generally admitted opinions on all events.

--Michel de Ghelderode

The man who never looks into a newspaper is better informed than he who reads them; inasmuch as he who knows nothing is nearer to truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehood and errors.

--Thomas Jefferson

One of the most valuable philosophical features of journalism is that it realizes that truth is not a solid but a fluid.

--Christopher Morley

The trouble with daily journalism is apt to be regarded as an extension of history: in Britain, as an extension of conversation.

--Anthony Sampson

Journalists tell the public which way the cat is jumping. The public will take care of the cat.

--Arthur Hays Sulzberger

How many beautiful trees gave their lives that today's scandal should, without delay, reach a million readers!

--Edwin Way Teale

Let it be impressed upon your minds, let it be instilled into your children, that the liberty of the press is the palladium of all the civil, political, and religious rights.

--Junius

There is not a crime, there is not a vice which does not live in secrecy. Get these things out in the open, describe them, attack them, ridicule them in the press and sooner or later public opinion will sweep them away.

--Joseph Pulitzer

Caution to a young reporter: Be wary. If your mother says she loves you, check on it.

--Ed Eulenberg

Don't forget that the only two things people read in a story are the first and last sentences. Give them blood in the eye on the first one.

--Herbert Bayard Swope

Get first names.

--I. A. Diamond

The first law of journalism, which is information gathering, should be: ask. Right? Not exactly. The First Law is listen. The Second Law is: ask. The Third Law is: pay attention to what you see, so you'll know what to ask.

--Leonard Koppett

Absolute freedom of the press to discuss public questions is a foundation stone of American liberty.

--Herbert Hoover

Guidelines for being a better reader, listener or viewer: Mix your mediums: don't depend on a single source for your news. Compare the accounts....Read, listen and view the news every day....Read critically....Seek out opposing views. (Broaden yourself by understanding the views of others)....Don't be headline happy. (There's a lot of news behind the headlines)....Read and listen intently. Watch for qualifying words and source limitations. Don't accept charge as conviction, rumor as fact or plan for accomplishment, reliable source as authority.

--Harland W. Warner

When we hear news we should always wait for the sacrament of confirmation.

--Voltaire

Advertisements contain the only truths to be relied on in a newspaper.

--Thomas Jefferson

The best use of a journal is to print the largest practical amount of important truth, —truth which tends to make mankind wiser, and thus happier.

--Horace Greeley

The careful reader of a few good newspapers can learn more in a year than most scholars do in their great libraries.

--F. B. Sanborn

Freedom of the press is the staff of life for any vital democracy.

--Wendell L. Willkie

Journalism is organized gossip.

--Edward Eggleston

The word explains itself, without the muse,
And the four letters speak from whence comes news.
From North, East, West, South, the solution's made,
Each quarter gives accounts of war and trade.

--Unknown

Printing is an international art—it belongs to the people of all nations and is an effective instrument for world peace. For, if peace really is the product of mutual understanding, then there is no work of man that is better designed to promote that understanding than the printing press.

--Raymond Blattenberger

Do not read newspapers column by column; remember they are made for everybody, and don't try to get what isn't meant for you.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Freedom of the press is not an end in itself but a means to the end of a free society.

--Felix Frankfurter

The freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic government.

--George Mason

A free press stands as one of the great interpreters between the government and the people. To allow it to be fettered is to be fettered ourselves.

--Justice George
Sutherland

Journalism is the ability to meet the challenge of filling space.

--Rebecca West

News is the same old thing—only happening to different people.

--Unknown

A small town newspaper advertised, 'Read your Bible to know what people ought to do. Read this paper to know what they actually do.'

--Unknown

Things evidently false are not only printed, but many things of truth most falsely set forth.

--Sir Thomas Browne

We are the press. You know our power. We fix all values. We set all standards. Your entire future depends on us.

--Jean Giraudoux

What are the publications that succeed? Those that pretend to teach the public that the persons they have been accustomed unwittingly to look up to as the lights of the earth are no better than themselves.

--William Hazlitt

An investigative reporter is one who doesn't know when to quit.

--Douglas Kennedy

An ordinary reporter is persistent. An investigative reporter never gives up, no matter how insurmountable the obstacles, or how hopeless the prospects.

--James Dygert

In a sense, all reporting is investigative, but the phrase 'investigative reporting' usually describes sustained attempts to uncover illegal activities or conflicts of interest.

--Tom Goldsmith

I love writing stories that make everybody jump up and down.

--Seymour Hersh

It's almost a perverse pleasure. I like going out and finding something that is going wrong or something that isn't the way other people are saying it is, and then putting it in the newspaper.

--Bob Woodward

The investigative reporter serves as a kind of moral custodian of the Republic, trying to close the gap—always there and often wide—between what men say and what men do. Wrongdoing is his target.

--Thomas Powers

America seems to have entered a phase of counter journalism led by newspapers themselves. The anger and indignation that once moved reporters to uncover the crimes of the powerful has turned on those who challenge power's prerogatives.

--Alan Wolfe

A sustaining myth of journalism holds that every great government scandal is revealed through the work of enterprising reporters who by one means or another pierce the official veil of secrecy. The role that government institutions play in exposing official misconduct and corruption therefore tends to be seriously neglected, if not wholly ignored.

--Edward J. Epstein

An investigative reporter has to be a detective, a lawyer, and a social reformer all wrapped up in one, and that's rare.

--A. M. Rosenthal

Despite the more heroic claims of the news media, daily journalism is largely concerned with finding and retaining profitable sources of packaged stories (whether it be the Weather Bureau, the Dow-Jones financial wire service, public-relations agencies, or a confidential source within the government.)

--Edward J. Epstein

Except when actual, identifiable harm would result, to the source or some other worthy cause or person, that practice (of protecting the identity of sources) can be unprofessional, a serious impediment to journalists of all kinds. It makes stories almost impossible to verify. It suppresses a major element of almost every investigative story: Who wanted it known.

--Renata Adler

Most journalists are relentless voyeurs who see the warts on the world, the imperfections in people and places.

--Gay Talese

Bad news is exciting: scandal, war, murder. It is almost always available if you look for it. It sells papers; it increases television ratings.

--Ben J. Wattenberg

That is journalism—an ability to meet the challenge of filling the space.

--Rebecca West

The business of journalism is to present facts accurately. Those seeking something larger are advised to look elsewhere.

--Roger Rosenblatt

The press is a midden heap, full of bits and pieces of things, some of them true, and maybe valuable, but all of them fragments from which the citizen must construct his own distorted portrait of reality. I object to the idea that somehow the press, the media, are going to provide people with all the necessary answers.

--Lewis H. Lapham

The trouble with the news business...is that reporters have to take seriously the words of famous and/or powerful people, even if said people ought not to be taken seriously.

--Jon Margolis

It is journalistically 'accurate' to report someone else's nonsensical assertions.

--Stephan Leshner

If truth was a factor, we couldn't publish half the statements public officials make.

--Seymour Hersh

Reporters are like puppets. They simply respond to the pull of the most powerful strings.

--Lyndon B. Johnson

When the day dissolves, little, if anything, will be remembered of these things.
--Roger Rosenblatt

People who are drawn to journalism are usually people who, because of their cynicism or emotional detachment or reserve or whatever, are incapable of becoming anything but witnesses to events.

--Nora Ephron

That is the way journalism is. You can't sell a magazine with a cover that says 'Nice Guy, Nothing Wrong With His Life, Great, Read All About Him.'

--Chevy Chase

I think all newspaper men are aware of the ephemeral nature of their craft, and want to write something which lasts a little longer.

--Bob Thomas

For all its faults, journalism is the one institution that preserves free inquiry and therefore freedom itself.

--James Deaken

Every journalist has a novel in him, which is an excellent place for it.

--Russell Lynes

The press is a sort of wild animal in our midst—restless, gigantic, always seeking new ways to use its strength....The sovereign press for the most part acknowledges accountability to no one except its owners and publishers.

--Zechariah Chafee, Jr.

A free press is not a privilege but an organic necessity in a great society.

--Walter Lippmann

Responsible journalism is journalism responsible in the last analysis to the editor's own conviction of what, whether interesting or only important, is in the public interest.

--Walter Lippmann

As the free press develops, the paramount point is whether the journalist, like the scientist or scholar, puts truth in the first place or in the second.

--Walter Lippmann

To a newspaperman a human being is an item with skin wrapped around it.

--Fred Allen

The vital measure of a newspaper is not its size but its spirit—that is its responsibility to report the news fully, accurately and fairly.

--Arthur Hays Sulzberger

In order to enjoy the inestimable benefits that the liberty of the press ensures, it is necessary to submit to the inevitable evils that it creates.

--Alexis de Tocqueville

The primary office of a newspaper is the gathering of news...comment is free, but facts are sacred.

--Charles Prestwick Scott

I am the voice of today, the herald of tomorrow....I am the leaden army that conquers the world —I am TYPE.

--Frederic William Goudy

Newspapers are unable, seemingly, to discriminate between a bicycle accident and the collapse of civilization.

--George Bernard Shaw

The journalist is partly in the entertainment business and partly in the advertising business.

--Claud Cockburn

All the news that's fit to print.

--*New York Times* Motto

A newspaper is a device for making the ignorant more ignorant and the crazy crazier.

--H. L. Mencken

In these days we fight for ideas, and newspapers are our fortresses.

--Heinrich Heine

In my opinion newspaper work offers better opportunities, aside from the accumulation of money, for real serviceable, result-getting labor than any other business a young man may choose.

--Samuel G. Blythe

Get your facts first, and then you can distort 'em as you please.

--Mark Twain

A news sense is really a sense of what is important, what is vital, what has color and life—what people are interested in. That's journalism.

--Burton Rascoe

I would sooner call myself a journalist than an author for a journalist is a journeyman.

--Gilbert K. Chesterton

Take away the newspaper—and this country of ours would become a scene of chaos. Without daily assurance of the exact facts—so far as we are able to know and publish them—the public imagination would run riot. Ten days without the daily newspaper and the strong pressure of worry and fear would throw the people of this country into mob hysteria—feeding upon rumors, alarms, terrified by bugbears and illusions. We have become the watchmen of the night and of a troubled day.

--Harry Chandler

All journalists are, by virtue of their handicraft, alarmists; this is their way of making themselves interesting.

--Lord Riddell

Journalism has become, and is becoming every day in even greater degree, the most important function in the community.

--Henry George

A newspaper is the history for one day of the world in which we live, and with which we are consequently more concerned than with those which have passed away, and exist only in remembrance.

--George Horne (1812)

A newspaper should be the maximum of information, and the minimum of comment.

—Richard Cobden

Newspapers are the schoolmasters of the common people—a greater treasure to them than uncounted millions of gold.

--H. W. Beecher

Newspapers are the world's cyclopaedia of life; telling us everything from every quarter of the globe. They are a universal whispering gallery for mankind, only their whispers are sometimes thunders.

--Tryon Edwards

Newspapers should be news-carriers, not news-makers. There is truth and entertainment enough to print, without fiction or falsehood, and to publish the latter is to betray the former.

--C. Simmons

The newspaper is the great educator of the nineteenth century. There is no force compared with it. It is book, pulpit, platform, forum, all in one. And there is not an interest—religious, literary, commercial, scientific, agricultural, or mechanical—that is not within its grasp. All our churches, and schools, and colleges, and asylums, and art galleries feel the quaking of the printing press.

--Talmage

The newspaper press is the people's university. Half the readers of Christendom read little else.

--J. Parton

Of all the amusements that can possibly be imagined for a hard-working man, after a day's toil, or in its intervals, there is nothing like reading an entertaining newspaper. It relieves his home of its dullness or sameness, and transports him to a gay-er and livelier and more diversified and interesting scene. It accompanies him in his next day's work, and if the paper be anything above the very idlest and lightest, it gives him something to think of besides the mechanical drudgery of his everyday occupation—something he can enjoy while absent, and look forward with pleasure to return to.

--Sir J. Herschell

These papers of the day have uses more adequate to the purposes of common life than more pompous and durable volumes.

--Samuel Johnson

What gunpowder did for war, the printing-press has done for the mind; the statesman is no longer clad in the steel of special education, but every reading man is his judge.

--Wendell Phillips

In former days superstitious rites were used to exorcise evil spirits; but in our times the same object is attained, and beyond comparison more effectually, by the common newspaper. Before this talisman, ghosts, vampires, witches, and all their kindred tribes are driven from the land, never to return again. The touch of 'holy water,' is not so intolerable to them as the smell of printing ink.

--J. Bentham

The press is the foe of rhetoric, but the friend of reason.

--Charles Caleb Colton

If by the liberty of the press, we understand merely the liberty of discussing the propriety of public measures and political opinions, let us have as much of it as you please; but, if it means the liberty of affronting, calumniating, and defaming one another, I own myself willing to part with my share of it whenever our legislators shall please to alter the law; and shall cheerfully consent to exchange my liberty of abusing others for the privilege of not being abused myself.

--Benjamin Franklin

The invention of printing added a new element of power to the race. From that hour the brain and not the arm, the thinker and not the soldier, books and not kings, were to rule the world; and weapons, forged in the mind, keen-edged and brighter than the sunbeam, were to supplant the sword and the battle-ax.

--E. P. Whipple

The press is not only free, it is powerful. That power is ours. It is the proudest that man can enjoy. It was not granted by monarchs; it was not gained for us by aristocracies; but it sprang from the people, and, with an immortal instinct, it has always worked for the people.

--Disraeli

Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.

--Thomas Jefferson

The liberty of the press is a blessing when we are inclined to write against others, and a calamity when we find ourselves overborne by the multitude of our assailants.

--Samuel Johnson

The free press is the mother of all our liberties and of our progress under liberty.

--Adlai E. Stevenson

Accuracy is to a newspaper what virtue is to a lady, but a newspaper can always print a retraction.

--Adlai E. Stevenson

To journalists, like social scientists, the term 'objectivity' stands as a bulwark between themselves and critics. Attacked for a controversial presentation of 'facts,' newspapermen invoke their objectivity almost as a Mediterranean peasant might wear a clove of garlic around his neck to ward off evil spirits.

--Gaye Tuchman

I don't care what points I made in interviews, it practically never got printed the way I said it. I was learning under fire how the press, when it wants to, can twist and slant....I developed a mental image of reporters as human ferrets—steadily sniffing, darting, probing for some way to trick me, somehow corner me in our interview exchanges.

--Malcolm X

I believe that few people aside from myself have any idea of the tremendous almost invincible power and force of the daily press....I am one of those who believe that at least in America the press rules the country; it rules its politics, its religion, its social practice.

--E. W. Scripps

There is little doubt that the public's knowledge of government depends not upon experience and observation, but rather on the news media, which set the agenda for public discussion.

--William L. Rivers

The energies which lead men into newspapers are...the desire to startle and expose; the opportunity to project personal hostilities and feelings of injustice on public persons under the aegis of 'journalistic duty'; inner drives for 'action' plus inner anxieties about accepting the consequences of action. This last is particularly important. There is a sense of invulnerability attached to newspaper work.

--Leo Rosten

In the average newspaper there is not a complete suppression of stories the sacred cows don't want printed. But rather what happens is that the stories get printed with stresses, colorations and emphasis that favor the sacred cows.

--Carl Sandburg

The media are far more powerful than the President in creating public awareness and shaping public opinion, for the simple reason that the media always have the last word.

--Richard. M. Nixon

It is almost impossible for public opinion to form any kind of verdict based on actual facts. Newspapers nowadays use facts merely as the raw material of propaganda. By suppression, or alteration, or overemphasis, or by the trick of false perspective, or by scare headlines and editorial comment, the 'facts' are made to convey exactly the particular idea which the newspaper desires to suggest to its readers.

--A. E. Mander

People may expect too much of journalism. Not only do they expect it to be entertaining, they expect it to be true.

--Lewis Lapham

I really look with commiseration over the great body of my fellow citizens who, reading newspapers, live and die in the belief that they have known something of what has been passing in the world in their time.

--Thomas Jefferson

Trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading the newspaper is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock.

--Ben Hecht

The humbug and hypocrisy of the press begin only when the newspapers pretend to be 'impartial' or 'servants of the public.' And this becomes dangerous as well as laughable when the public is fool enough to believe it.

--Claud Cockburn

The modern press itself is a new phenomenon. Its typical unit is the great agency of mass communication. These agencies can facilitate thought and discussion. They can stifle it....They can play up or down the news and its significance, foster and feed emotions, create complacent fictions and blind spots, misuse the great words and uphold empty slogans. Their scope and power are increasing every day as new instruments become available to them. These instruments can spread lies faster and farther than our forefathers dreamed when they enshrined freedom of the press in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

--*Commission on
Freedom of the
Press*

(The mass media) may not be successful much of the time in telling people what to think but it is stunningly successful in telling its readers what to think about....The world will look different to different people, depending...on the map that is drawn for them by writers, editors, and publishers of the papers they read.

--Bernard Cohen

The evil that men do lives on in the front pages of greedy newspapers, but the good is oft interred apathetically inside.

--Brooks Atkinson

Objectivity is impossible to a normal human being. Fairness, however is attainable, and this is what we are striving for—not objectivity but fairness.

--David Brinkley

The most important service rendered by the press and the magazines is that of educating people to approach printed matter with distrust.

--Samuel Butler

Newspapers nowadays use facts merely as the raw material for propaganda. By suppression, or alteration, or overemphasis, or by the trick of false perspective, or by scare headlines and editorial comment, the 'facts' are made to convey exactly the particular idea which the newspaper desires to suggest to its readers.

--Philip Gibbs

One copy of the (London) Times contains more useful information than the whole of the historical works of Thucydides.

--Richard Cobden

The newspaper, which does its best to make every square acre of land and sea give an account of itself at your breakfast-table.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Perhaps an editor might...divide his paper into four chapters, heading the first, Truths; 2d, Probabilities; 3d, Possibilities; 4, Lies.

--Thomas Jefferson

If it is in print, it must be true.

--W. G. Benham

Where the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe.

--Thomas Jefferson

The more journalism I read and do, the more convinced I am not merely that ideas have consequences, but that only ideas have large and lasting consequences—behind every war there lurks an idea—and that books are still the primary carriers of ideas, including books of poetry and fiction. News gatherers, like news makers, might be agreeably humble by the definition of literature as news that makes news.

--George Will

There are lots of ways to practice the art of journalism, and one of them is to use your art like a hammer to destroy the right people—who are almost always your enemies....and who usually deserve to be crippled because they are wrong. This is a dangerous notion, and few professional journalists will endorse it.

--Hunter S. Thompson

News is as hard to hold as quicksilver, and it fades more rapidly than any morning-glory.

--Stanley Walker

Journalism has not changed at all, fundamentally. Journalism is that folks read what I write or listen to what I have to say and I will tell you what happened today. That's really all there is to it, gathering it and delivering it. We have more delivery systems than we used to have, but what is delivered is essentially the same.

--David Brinkley

Look at how prizes are given for journalism. They're given out for finding the smoking gun, for bringing someone down. You don't see a whole lot of prizes given out for the most balanced, nuanced profile of someone in public life.

--Ellen Hume

Anyone who says network news cannot be profitable doesn't know what he is talking about. But anyone who says it must always make money is misguided and irresponsible.

--Dan Rather

All news is an exaggeration of life.

--Daniel Schorr

Newspapers like to represent themselves as wonderfully romantic and hitched into world events but they are really an entertainment and manufacturing business. The news is what you can squeeze in before you have to go to press; it's not what's happening in the world.

--Robertson Davies

The American press is extraordinarily free and vigorous, as it should be. It should be, not because it is free of inaccuracy, oversimplification and bias, but because the alternative to that freedom is worse than those failings.

--Robert Bork

Newspapers have developed what might be called a vested interest in catastrophe. If they can spot a fight, they play up that fight. If they can uncover a tragedy, they will headline that tragedy.

--Harry A. Overstreet

I do not take a single newspaper, nor read one a month and I feel myself infinitely the happier for it.

--Thomas Jefferson

Burke said there were three Estates in Parliament; but in the reporters' gallery yonder, there sat a fourth Estate more important than them all.

--Thomas Carlyle

The purpose of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

--Finley Peter Dunne

Remember, son, many a good story has been ruined by over-verification.

--James Gordon Bennett

Don't be afraid to make a mistake, your readers might like it.

--William Randolph
Hearst

The sports page records people's accomplishments, the front page usually records nothing but man's failures.

--Earl Warren

If some great catastrophe is not announced every morning, we feel a certain void. 'Nothing in the paper today,' we sigh.

--Paul Valéry

Carelessness is not fatal to journalism, nor are clichés, for the eye rests lightly on them. But what is intended to be read once can seldom be read more than once; a journalist has to accept the fact that his work, by its very todayness, is excluded from any share in tomorrow.

--Cyril Connolly

The day you write to please everyone you no longer are in journalism. You are in show business.

--Frank Miller, Jr.

Today's reporter is forced to become an educator more concerned with explaining the news than with being first on the scene.

--Fred Friendly

A writer who takes up journalism abandons the slow tempo of literature for a faster one and the change will do him harm. By degrees the flippancy of journalism will become a habit and the pleasure of being paid on the nail and more especially of being praised on the nail, grow indispensable.

--Cyril Connolly

In a democracy, the public has a right to know not only what the government decides, but why and by what process.

--Gerald Ford

When we hear news we should always wait for the sacrament of confirmation.

--Voltaire

All news is biased.

--Unknown

Analysis is concerned with things as they are, or as they were, or, judging from present facts, what they probably will be. An editorial is concerned with things as they ought to be.

--Frank Stanton

All news is an exaggeration of life.

--Daniel Schorr

Rock journalism is people who can't write interviewing people who can't talk for people who can't read.

--Frank Zappa

Democracy depends on information circulating freely in society.

--Katherine Graham

Reporters are puppets. They simply respond to the pull of the most powerful strings.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson

A good reporter remains a skeptic all his life.

--Jack Smith

Newspapers don't change tastes. They reflect taste.

--Rupert Murdoch

Our job is only to hold up the mirror—to tell and show the public what has happened, and then it is the job of the people to decide whether they have faith in their leaders or government. We are faithful to our profession in telling the truth. That's the only faith to which journalists need adhere.

--Walter Cronkite

All advertising is good news.

--Marshall McLuhan

The journalist's job is to get the story by breaking into their offices, by bribing, by seducing people, by lying, by anything else to break through the palace guard.

--Robert Scheer

Journalism is a kind of profession, or craft, or racket, for people who never wanted to grow up and go out into the real world. If you're a good journalist, what you do is live a lot of things vicariously, and report them for other people who want to live vicariously.

--Harry Reasoner

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

--Thomas Jefferson

The morning paper is just as necessary for an American as dew is to the grass.

--Josh Billings

We live under a government of men and morning newspapers.

--Wendell Phillips

If words were invented to conceal thought, newspapers are a great improvement of a bad invention.

--Henry David Thoreau

From the American newspapers you'd think America was populated solely by naked women and cinema stars.

--Lady Astor

Newspapers are the schoolmasters of the common people. That endless book, the newspaper, is our national glory.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Women, wampum and wrongdoing are always news.

--Stanley Walker

If we continue to do our jobs based on what there is an appetite for, then every paper will be the National Enquirer, The Globe, and the Star.

--Pearl Stewart

Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets.

--Napoleon I

Writing good editorials is chiefly telling the people what they think, not what you think.

--Arthur Brisbane

In the old days, men had the rack. Now they have the press.

--Oscar Wilde

'Cherchez la femme' is good advice for investigative reporters. 'Follow the money' is even better advice.

--Ben Bradlee

If a person is not talented enough to be a novelist, not smart enough to be a lawyer, and his hands are too shakey to perform operations, he becomes a journalist.

--Norman Mailer

Journalism consists in saying 'Lord Jones Dead' to people who never knew Lord Jones was alive.

—Gilbert K. Chesterton

A foreign correspondent is someone who...flies around from hotel to hotel and thinks the most interesting thing about any story is the fact that he has arrived to cover it.

--Tom Stoppard

Everything you read in the newspapers is absolutely true except for the rare story of which you happen to have first-hand knowledge.

--Erwin Knoll

Good taste is, of course, an utterly dispensable part of any journalist's equipment.

--Michael Hogg

A newspaper editorial writer is one who comes down from the observation post after the battle is over and shoots the wounded.

--Unknown

Journalism is the only job that requires no degrees, no diplomas and no specialised knowledge of any kind.

--Patrick Campbell

The truth is not wonderful enough to suit the newspapers; so they enlarge upon it and invent ridiculous embellishments.

--Annie Sullivan

Adjectives do most of the work, smuggling in actual information under the guise of normal journalism. Thus the use of soft-spoken (mousy), loyal (dumb), high-minded (inept), hardworking (plodding), self-made (crooked), and pragmatic (totally immoral).

--John Leo

One ad is worth more to a paper than 40 editorials.

--Will Rogers

None of the worst French novels from which careful parents try to protect their children can be as bad as what is daily brought and laid upon the breakfast-table of every educated family in England, and its effect must be most pernicious to the public morals of the country.

--Queen Victoria

There are laws to protect the freedom of the press's speech, but none that are worth anything to protect the people from the press.

--Mark Twain

I think it well to remember that, when writing for the newspapers, we are writing for an elderly lady in Hastings who has two cats of which she is passionately fond. Unless our stuff can successfully compete for her interest with those cats, it is no good.

--Willmott Lewis

The art of newspaper paragraphing is to stroke a platitude until it purrs like an epigram.

--Don Marquis

More than one newspaper has been ruined by the brilliant writer in the editor's chair.

--Lord Camrose

The first law of journalism—to confirm existing prejudice rather than contradict it.

--Alexander Cockburn

I am a journalist and, under the modern journalist's code of Olympian objectivity (and total purity of motive), I am absolved of responsibility. We journalists don't have to step on roaches. All we have to do is turn on the kitchen light and watch the critters scurry.

--P. J. O'Rourke

My advice is to stay out of journalism schools that don't stress a strong liberal arts background. The who, what, when, where, how and why formula in journalism will serve you well so long as you have an understanding or a foundation that is rooted in an understanding of the economic, political and social issues and problems of the world.

--Charlayne Hunter-Gault

The dissemination of information is one of the cornerstones of modern civilization.

--John F. Budd

It is better to be abused by the Press than ignored.

--Rachel (Elisa Felix)

That awful power, the public opinion of a nation, is created in America by a horde of ignorant, self-complacent simpletons who failed at ditching and shoemaking and fetched up in journalism on their way to the poorhouse.

--Mark Twain

Journalism is to politician as dog is to lamppost.

--H. L. Mencken

All journalists are spies.

--Sese Seko Mobutu

News expands to fill the time and space allocated to its coverage.

--William Safire

Editorial is what keeps the ads apart.

--Roy Thomson

Publicity is justly commended as a remedy for social and industrial diseases. Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman.

--Louis D. Brandeis

If a newspaper prints a sex crime, it's smut, but when the New York Times prints it, it's a sociological study.

--Adolph S. Ochs

Journalism is the ability to meet the challenge of filling space.

--Rebecca West

Journalism consists in buying white paper at two cents a pound and selling it at ten cents a pound.

--Charles A. Dana

Journalism is a profession whose idea of news is to devote several pages to sports and only one paragraph to education.

--Unknown

News that makes the headlines is always bad news.

--Marquis Childs

Without an unfettered press, without liberty of speech, all the outward forms and structures of free institutions are a sham, a pretense—the sheerest mockery. If the press is not free; if speech is not independent and untrammelled; if the mind is shackled or made impotent through fear, it makes no difference under what form of government you live you are a subject and not a citizen. Republics are not in and of themselves better than other forms of government except in so far as they carry with them and guarantee to the citizen that liberty of thought and action for which they were established.

--Senator William E.
Borah

Without free speech no search for truth is possible, without free speech no discovery of truth is useful, without free speech progress is checked and the nations no longer march forward toward the nobler life which the future holds for man. Better a thousand-fold abuse of speech than a denial of free speech. The abuse dies in a day, but the denial slays the life of the people, and entombs the hope of the race.

--Charles Bradlaugh

Give light and the people will find their own way.

--Scripps-Howard
Newspapers Moto

Covers Dixie Like the Dew.

--*The Atlanta Journal*
Slogan

The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them.

--Thomas Jefferson

So I became a newspaperman. I hated to do it but I couldn't find honest employment.

--Mark Twain

To the press alone, chequered as it is with abuses, the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression.

--James Madison

Publicity is justly commended as a remedy for social and industrial diseases. Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman.

--Louis D. Brandeis

News is what someone somewhere wants, everything else is advertising.

--Lord Northcliffe

News—The truth, just as approximate as we can make it.

--Eric Sevareid

When a reporter sits down at the typewriter, he's nobody's friend.

--Theodore H. White

An old editor once told me to walk down the middle of the street and shoot windows out on both sides.

--Petter Lisagor

I don't like to hurt people. I really don't like it at all. But in order to get a red light at the intersection, you sometimes have to have an accident.

--Jack Anderson

The newspaper business is the only enterprise in the world where a man is supposed to become an expert on any conceivable subject between 1 o'clock in the afternoon and a 6 P.M. deadline.

--Robert S. Bird

I think the press has a lot of problems. One of them being that the first 20 stories written about a public figure set the tone for the next 2,000 and it is almost impossible to reverse it.

--Charles W. Colson

Hastiness and superficiality are the psychic diseases of the twentieth century, and more than anywhere else this disease is reflected in the press.

--Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

I always turn to the sports page first. The sports page records people's accomplishments; the front page nothing but man's failure.

--Chief Justice Earl
Warren

A sportswriter is entombed in a prolonged boyhood.

--Jimmy Cannon

Electronic journalism, like print journalism, is essentially a process of trolling for information.

--Sheldon Zalaznick

We perform the function of responsible gossips, and shouldn't pretend that we do more.

--John Hart

Television is show business and thus TV news is a part of show business.

--Av Westin

I loved daily journalism. It was the perfect job: high stress and low pay.

--Knight Kiplinger

The fact that a man is a newspaper reporter is evidence of some flaw of character.

--Lyndon Johnson

Truth in journalism is usually found on the comic pages.

--Frank DeGennaro

The news we receive through the media is a proctological view of life.

--Alan Cohen

Never argue with someone who buys ink by the barrel.

--Carl Holmstrom

The function of the press in society is to inform, but the role is to make money.

--A. J. Liebling

Today's paper lights tomorrow's fire.

--Unknown

Don't get it right, just get it written.

--James Thurber

It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper.

--Jerry Seinfeld

People who read the tabloids deserve to be lied to.

--Jerry Seinfeld

The ultimate inspiration is the deadline.

--Nolan Bushnell

Commas in *The New Yorker* fall with the precision of knives in a circus act, outlining the victim.

--E. B. White

I don't have any well-developed philosophy about journalism. Ultimately it is important in a society like this, so people can know about everything that goes wrong.

--Charles Kuralt

The art of newspaper paragraphing is to stroke a platitude until it purrs like an epigram.

--Don Marquis

Nobody believes the official spokesman... but everybody trusts an unidentified source.

--Ron Nesen

A city with one newspaper, or with a morning and an evening paper under one ownership, is like a man with one eye, and often the eye is glass.

--A. J. Liebling

There is reason why newspaper reporters, despite polls that show consistently low public regard for journalists, are the heroes of so many films. The reporter of lore was not some blue blood or Ivy League egg-head, beholden to society's powerful interests, be they corporate, financial, or political. We liked our newsmen to be Everymen—shoe-leather intellectuals, cynical, suspicious, and streetwise like Humphrey Bogart in *Deadline-U.S.A.* or Jimmy Stewart in *The Philadelphia Story* or Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman in *All the President's Men*.

--Mark Bowden

Anyone with a keyboard or cell phone can report, analyze, and pull a chair up to the national debate. If freedom of the press belongs to those who own one, today that is everyone.

--Mark Bowden

A reporter who thinks and speaks for himself, whose preeminent goal is providing deeper understanding, aspires even in political argument to persuade, which requires at the very least being seen as fair-minded and trustworthy by those—and this is the key—who are inclined to disagree with him. The honest, disinterested voice of a true journalist carries an authority that no self-branded liberal or conservative can have.

--Mark Bowden

For a country to have a great writer is like having another government.

--Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Journalism, done right, is enormously powerful precisely because it does not seek power. It seeks truth. Those who forsake it to shill for a product or a candidate or a party or an ideology diminish their own power. They are missing the most joyful part of the job.

--Mark Bowden

What's most distinctive about the American press is not its freedom but its century-old tradition of independence—that it serves the public interest rather than those of parties, persuasions, or pressure groups.

--Jacob Weisberg

There is not really a cycle to news anymore. It is more of a treadmill.

--Jon Meacham

The television is to news as the bumper sticker is to philosophy.

--Jack Monahan

A desk is a dangerous place from which to watch the world.

--John le Carre

The old days of freewheeling newspaper competition ended with the advent of telecommunication. It was a gradual process, but by the middle of the last century, television and radio were delivering breaking news instantly and universally, eliminating one of the most compelling reasons to buy a newspaper.

--Mark Bowden

This vision of a newspaper, one that prevailed at the highest levels of the craft for decades, ensured that the paper was not just a propaganda mill, the house organ of some rich man or political party, but a community of street-smart shoe-leather scholars who worked as the eyes, ears, and conscience of their city.

--Mark Bowden

The Internet is in many ways a superior medium for journalism. It costs virtually nothing, in contrast to multimillion-dollar printing presses, giant rolls of paper and tankers of ink, and fleets of delivery trucks, to say nothing of the thousands of laborers needed to operate the equipment and distribute the product. But while the Web is rapidly destroying the business model that sustained all of the above, it has yet to develop institutions capable of replacing print newspapers as vehicles for great in-depth journalism, or conscious of themselves as upholding a public trust. Instead, the Web gives voice to opinionated, unedited millions. In the digital world, ignorance and crudity share the platform with rigor and taste; the independent journalist shares the platform with spinmeisters and con artists. Cable television and satellite radio have taken broadcast journalism in the same direction, crowding out the once-dominant networks, which strove for the ideal of objectivity, with new channels that all but advertise their politics. When all news is spun, we live in a world of propaganda.

--Mark Bowden

There is nothing wrong, of course, with a newspaper filled with actual news, but the best papers do not define what is news exactly the same way every other outlet does.

--Mark Bowden

We journalists make it a point to know very little about an extremely wide variety of topics; this is how we stay objective.

--Dave Barry

The hand that rules the press, the radio, the screen and the far-spread magazine, rules the country.

--Learned Hand

The reporter is the daily prisoner of clocked facts. On all working days, he is expected to do his best in one swift swipe at each story.

--Jim Bishop

The biases the media has are much bigger than conservative or liberal. They're about getting ratings, about making money, about doing stories that are easy to cover.

--Al Franken

The thing that I think journalists sometimes forget is that the point of writing on worthy topics is presumably to get people to read stories on worthy topics...Part of what it means is that people in the 'writing about important things' business need to roll up our sleeves and try harder to make our output compelling to people. If an article about the school board falls in the middle of the wilderness and nobody reads it, it doesn't actually make an impact.

--Matthew Yglesias

The blending of news and opinion isn't new, but activism posing as journalism is a cancer on the body politic.

--Kathleen Parker

Reporters are faced with the daily choice of painstakingly researching stories or writing whatever people tell them. Both approaches pay the same.

--Scott Adams

You can't become a great journalist without first having some kind of killer instinct.

--Graeme Wood

I read newspapers and magazines online because it's easier, cleaner and I can stay in bed. Still. There's no substitute for opening one's front door the morning after a blizzard and finding a rolled newspaper wrapped in plastic, reassuring us once more that no matter what nature doles out, human beings will deliver the paper.

--Kathleen Parker

The reporter is the daily prisoner of clocked facts. On all working days, he is expected to do his best in one swift swipe at each story.

--Jim Bishop

The quality of journalism has gone down dramatically. It is a function of the economics of the news business. We don't have experienced reporters. We get rid of them and get low-priced novices who have never traveled and have no understanding of what they're writing... We don't have editors, we don't have the legal beagles, you have the competition of the blogs—I don't know what the difference between a blog and a newspaper is, for example, and sometimes they have different standards, even under the same logo in the same name so I think we've dumbed down, and it's not good for society. It's hard to argue that we aren't going more towards an instant-gratification, sound-bite kind of world. And I think the technology is driving that; the economics of the business, as I just said, is driving that; the political process is driving it.

--Michael Bloomberg

I became a journalist partly so that I wouldn't ever have to rely on the press for my information.

--Christopher Hitchens

I have an almost naive belief that the best way to win an argument or improve the world is to put more truth out there.

--David Corn

The newspaper exists to serve the community.

--Elizabeth Bradshaw

The Second Law of Journalism: It's not your fault. It's just your turn.

--Arthur Sulzberger

I'm proud to say that I'm a 'newspaper guy!' I read four papers each morning and that prepares me for my day. I always feel informed, as that is essential with my job. It's not just sports, it's everything cover to cover.

--John McDonough,
President,
Chicago
Blackhawks

Joe Cumming, the Atlanta bureau chief, was a wordsmith, and I greatly admired him. He told me years later of the writer's block he suffered trying to 'write to space' an obit on the legendary columnist Ralph McGill. As the scrunched-up pieces of discarded copy mounted around Joe's feet, he remembered looking up at the rafters and thinking he could just hang himself and end it all, but then the first responders would arrive and think, 'The poor guy couldn't even write a lead.' That made him laugh and freed him to write, a valuable lesson about the creative process.

--Eleanor Clift

Find just the right adjectives to make the facts sing.

--Eleanor Clift

The word appropriators in journalism have got to stop describing our politics in the language of war or pugilism. (If I see one more 'traded jabs' reference describing a campaign debate, I am going to open my window and scream, and I invite you to join me). This war imagery is built on the construct that there must be definite winners vs. losers in any public policy outcome and that destroying your opponent is the ultimate goal. Some might think just that... politics is war. War is the failure of politics.

--Chuck Raasch

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by.

--Douglas Adams

Journalism allows its readers to witness history; fiction gives its readers the opportunity to live it.

--John Hersey

You cannot be worried about offending powerful people. You cannot be worried about what's the best career move, or about being invited to a party, or about whether people are going to hate you. Good reporting is about challenging power.

--Michael Hastings

Most of the journalism done in Washington and Wall Street is like a private club where loyalty to sources counts more than informing the public. We need skepticism, not fealty to sources.

--Glenn Greenwald

Working at a newspaper entails a lot of meetings—town hall meetings, selectmen meetings, meetings with boards of nonprofits and arts councils and schools. The inclination is to get a few good quotes and dash to write. But stay. Don't leave until you're the last person in the room. You never know when your story will appear.

--Julia Rappaport

The advertisement is the most truthful part of a newspaper.

--Thomas Jefferson

In newsrooms there is little patience for the use of a difficult word where a simpler one will do. 'Good prose is like a windowpane,' wrote George Orwell in his famous essay 'Why I Write,' a rule that would seem to counsel against ever stopping a reader with an unfamiliar word. It's good advice for beginners, but serious readers are also lovers of language. I find that the occasional obscure word, used correctly, spices prose.

--Rick Atkinson

If you're writing for a magazine or a newspaper, then you're a guest. It's as if you're a guest violinist in some great conductor's orchestra. You play to his rhythm, to his audience. You're invited in and he edits you and tells you what he wants. On the other hand, when you're writing a book the only reason you're writing it is to say it your own way, in your own words, and tell the story the way you see it.

--Teddy White

Wooing the press is an exercise roughly akin to picnicking with a tiger. You might enjoy the meal, but the tiger always eats last.

--Maureen Dowd

In journalism, it's more important to be right than to be first, and that technology that makes it easier and faster to correct errors shouldn't be used as an excuse to lower standards of ethics and accuracy.

--Kevin Cullen

The biggest advantage all forms of written journalism have over the immediacy of TV and radio is the ability to deliver depth and strong, evocative writing.

--Kevin Cullen

When you are writing for the print newspaper, an editor assigns a finite length. It's up to the writer to make those words fit. But when one is writing online, there is no arbitrary word limit.

--Kevin Cullen

Writing short and writing long require different disciplines. It's the difference between writing a poem and writing a short story. When you tweet, every letter counts. When you write for the web, enjoy the freedom.

--Kevin Cullen

Someday perhaps I'll have to get a grownup job... but for now I'm having too much fun being a reporter.

--Andrea Mitchell

One Ad is worth more to a paper than forty Editorials.

--Will Rogers

I'm a reporter. I'm not a scholar.

--Peter Jennings

All I know is just what I read in the papers, and that's an alibi for my ignorance.

--Will Rogers

Usually if nobody hates a piece, nobody loves it, either; and a magazine which sets itself the goal of provoking thought is not doing its job if everybody agrees with what it does.

--Stanley Schmidt

At the White House, everybody works for the same person. They're all part of the same company. But on Capitol Hill, they're all independent contractors. They all work for themselves. That's a formula for getting news.

--Bob Schieffer

There's no privacy. There's nothing that's sacred....It also used to be that news was holy, and you did not give opinions. I mean, Walter Cronkite was the most trusted and the most famous, but you didn't know how Walter thought. Today, in order to be successful, you have to be opinionated, and that's what people want to hear.

--Barbara Walters

The newspaper business was as easy a way to make huge returns as existed in America. No paper in a one-paper city, however bad the product or however inept the management, could avoid gushing profits.

--Warren Buffett

I take a grave view of the press. It is the weak slat under the bed of democracy.

--A. J. Liebling

You find the most important thing that really grabs you, and put it right up top. Don't bury the lead. Put it at the top. Best thing to do. Never go wrong that way. It's an immutable law of journalism. It just always works.

--Kurt Loder

Fidelity to the subject's thought and to his characteristic way of expressing himself is the sine qua non of journalistic quotation.

--Janet Malcolm

I think journalism gets measured by the quality of information it presents, not the drama or the pyrotechnics associated with us.

--Bob Woodward

The mainstream media has its own agenda. They do not want to print the facts. They have an agenda, they have a slant, they have a bias. It is outrageous to me.

--Curt Weldon

To me, every interview, even if you love the artist, needs to be somewhat adversarial. Which doesn't mean you need to attack the person, but you do need to look at it like you're trying to get information that has not been written about before.

--Chuck Klosterman

The pursuit of truth shall set you free - even if you never catch up with it.

--Clarence Darrow

I am unable to understand how a man of honor could take a newspaper in his hands without a shudder of disgust.

--Charles Baudelaire

The truth is not wonderful enough to suit the newspapers; so they enlarge upon it, and invent ridiculous embellishments.

—Anne Sullivan

A good newspaper is never nearly good enough but a lousy newspaper is a joy forever.

—Garrison Keillor

The press is the hired agent of a monied system, and set up for no other purpose than to tell lies where their interests are involved. One can trust nobody and nothing.

—Henry Adams

While Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley, David Brinkley, Frank Reynolds and Howard K. Smith offered relatively unbiased accounts of information that their respective news organizations believed the public needed to know...It was an imperfect, untidy little Eden of journalism where reporters were motivated to gather facts about important issues. We didn't know that we could become profit centers. No one had bitten into that apple yet.

--Ted Koppel

We are no longer a national audience receiving news from a handful of trusted gatekeepers; we're now a million or more clusters of consumers, harvesting information from like-minded providers.

--Ted Koppel

I've been surprised by how the news cycle here in Washington is focused on what happens this minute. Sometimes it's difficult to keep everybody focused on the long term. The things that are really going to matter in terms of America's success 20 years from now, when we look back, are not the things that are being talked about on television on any given day.

--Barack Obama

Journalists should commit themselves the challenge of making what matters interesting, and resist the slide into the infotainment age.

--James Fallows

Giving people what they want as opposed to what they should want is a conflict as old as journalism, certainly as it has been practiced in this country.

--James Fallows

My capsule history of journalism is that for more than a century after the Civil War, American readers and viewers were in various ways buffered from getting exactly what they *wanted* from newspapers and, later, radio and TV news shows. News, like education, aspired to be as interesting as possible but to have an uplifting civic intent.

—James Fallows

It's not so much that American public life is more idiotic. It's that so much more of American life is public. I think that goes a long way to explaining what seems to be a 'decline.' Everything is documented, and little of it is edited. Editing is one of the great inventions of civilization.

--Jill Lepore

The need for clear, objective reporting in a world of rising religious fundamentalism, economic interdependence and global ecological problems is probably greater than it has ever been.

--Ted Koppel

The rise of TV changed all of journalism, even for those who worked in print or on the radio. It had effects that were bad, like the disproportionate emphasis on spectacles like car chases or tornadoes. And mixed, like the new importance of physical attractiveness in opening or closing career possibilities for newsmen and (especially) newswomen. And it had effects that were revolutionarily positive. For the first time in human history, people could see events taking place beyond their immediate line of sight. They could therefore envision and, perhaps, understand the world with a richness never possible before. How different would the psychic effect of the first moon landing have been if people had only read about it the next day? Or of the battlefield conditions and relentless causalities of the Vietnam War?

--James Fallows

We're going to look back at many facets of old media and realize that we were living in a desert disguised as a rain forest. There is going to be more content, not less; more information, more analysis, more precision, a wider range of niches covered.

--Berlin Johnson

We should constantly ask what can communications do for our country? For the common good? For the American people?

--Newton N. Minow

Newspapers don't tell the truth under many different, and occasionally innocent, scenarios. Mostly when they don't know the truth. Or when they quote someone who does not know the truth.

And more and more, when they quote someone who is spinning the truth, shaping it to some preconceived version of a story that is supposed to be somehow better than the truth, omitting details that could be embarrassing.

And finally, when they quote someone who is flat-out lying. There is a lot of spinning and a lot of lying in our times — in politics, in government, in sports and everywhere. It's gotten to a point where, if you are like me, you no longer believe the first version of anything. It wasn't always that way.

—Ben Bradlee

If the news isn't there, don't create it. If I look at local news, I don't know what's real.

—Willie Herenton

In America the President reigns for four years, and Journalism governs forever and ever.

—Oscar Wilde

I think some of the best reporters are the ones who can really illustrate the differences between societies, at the same time trying to connect the fact that there are a lot of shared values in addition to those differences.

—John Pomfret

A reporter's ability to keep the bond of confidentiality often enables him to learn the hidden or secret aspects of government.

—Bob Woodward

From journalism I learned to write under pressure, to work with deadlines, to have limited space and time, to conduct an interview, to find information, to research, and above all, to use language as efficiently as possible and to remember always that there is a reader out there.

—Isabel Allende

I used to get letters from girl reporters saying that their lives were nowhere near as exciting as Brenda's. I told them that if I made Brenda's life like theirs, nobody would read it.

—Dale Messick

One forges one's style on the terrible anvil of daily deadlines.

—Emile Zola

Journalism's ultimate purpose is to inform the reader, to bring him each day a letter from home and never to permit the serving of special interests.

—Arthur Ochs
Sulzberger

They didn't want it good, they wanted it Wednesday.

—Robert A. Heinlein

Every journalist who is not too stupid or too full of himself to notice what is going on knows that what he does is morally indefensible. He is a kind of confidence man, preying on people's vanity, ignorance or loneliness, gaining their trust and betraying them without remorse.

—Janet Malcolm

The people must know before they can act, and there is no educator to compare with the press.

—Ida B. Wells

The fact must never be forgotten that no magazine publisher in the United States could give what it is giving to the reader each month if it were not for the revenue which the advertiser brings the magazine.

—Edward Bok

The sports page records people's accomplishments, the front page usually records nothing, but man's failures.

—Barbara Walters

People may expect too much of journalism. Not only do they expect it to be entertaining, they expect it to be true.

—Lewis H. Lapham

An editor's strongest emotion is neither love nor hate but the desire to change someone's copy.

—Ken Wells

The Internet is like a beach with grains of sand. People won't pick up the same grain that you will. Put your finger on something that has changed since the last time it was written about.

—Barry Newman

Far too many people are under pressure to produce too much, and they can't take the time to get out of the office. Great stories don't come by you sitting down at your computer, they come by you reporting and reporting and reporting. The idea that we can find the answers on Google breeds a sameness to everything.

—Gabriel Kahn

If you're curious, you'll probably be a good journalist because we follow our curiosity like cats.

—Diane Sawyer

But by showing us live coverage of every bad thing happening everywhere in the world, cable news makes life seem like it's just an endless string of disasters - when, for most people in most places today, life is fairly good.

—Gregg Easterbrook

The mission of the press is to spread culture while destroying the attention span.

—Karl Kraus

But words are things, and a small drop of ink, falling like dew, upon a thought, produces that which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.

—Lord Byron

One realizes that Washington is more often Fallujah than Paris—a war zone where armies of reporters, pundits and politicians wage war with words in theaters of green rooms and bunkers of makeup.

—Kathleen Parker

Journalism students need to understand it and need a solid background in the liberal arts, in sociology, economics, literature and language, because they won't get it later on.

—Harrison Salisbury

The problem with not having a camera is that one must trust the analysis of a reporter who's telling you what occurred in the courtroom. You have to take into consideration the filtering effect of that person's own biases.

—Lance Ito

To be persuasive we must be believable; to be believable we must be credible; to be credible, we must be truthful.

—Edward R. Murrow

Nothing is better for a young journalist than to go and write about something that other people don't know about. If you can afford to send yourself to some foreign part, I still think that's by far the best way to break in.

—Tina Brown

A free press can, of course, be good or bad, but, most certainly without freedom, the press will never be anything but bad.

—Albert Camus

Without freedom of the press, there can be no representative government.

—Charles Maurice de
Talleyrand

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.

—Fred Rogers

Some of the best news stories start in gossip. Monica Lewinsky certainly was gossip in the beginning. I had heard it months before I printed it.

—Matt Drudge

I'm not saying every journalist must be a programmer, but every journalist must be a literate and informed creator of content for the Web. Everything—print journalism, broadcast journalism, magazine journalism—touches the Web in some way.

—Tyler Fisher

When I die, that won't be my accomplishment, that I've distracted people for an extra minute. It's that I have helped them in their thinking.

—Dave Beard

If all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed.

—Benjamin Franklin

The skills that underpin good journalism underpin everything: brevity, angle, observation, discipline, structure and, above all else, story.

—Emma Brockes

Literature is the art of writing something that will be read twice; journalism what will be read once.

—Cyril Connolly

News is a searchlight—moving about restlessly and bringing one episode and then another out of darkness into vision.

—Walter Lippmann

In journalism it is simpler to sound off than it is to find out. It is more elegant to pontificate than it is to sweat.

—Harold Evans

There is a huge difference between journalism and advertising. Journalism aspires to truth. Advertising is regulated for truth. I'll put the accuracy of the average ad in this country up against the average news story any time.

—Jef I. Richards

I'm not a procrastinator. I just prefer doing all my work in a deadline-induced panic.

—*invisiblebread.com*

We in the press have a special role since there is no other institution in our society that can hold the President accountable. I do believe that our democracy can endure and prevail only if the American people are informed.

—Helen Thomas

Numerous politicians have seized absolute power and muzzled the press. Never in history has the press seized absolute power and muzzled the politicians.

—David Brinkley

The 'muckrakers' were the crusading journalists who fought to correct long-standing injustices and change society. Many of them were women: Nellie Bly, who exposed the horrors of mental institutions; Ida Tarbell, who took on the monopoly power of Standard Oil; and Jane Addams, who shone a light on the misery of impoverished immigrants. Intrepid reporters who revealed realities that were so powerful that the facts alone were a form of activism.

—Ron Rosenbaum

There's a legacy of women doing conflict reporting. Women like Nellie Bly and Djuna Barnes. They've been underestimated and written out of history by the men that control official narratives. When Djuna Barnes was a young woman, she endured force-feeding so she could write articles about what it was like for a suffragette hunger striker to be force-fed. Her first job was a journalist—and she was an illustrator as well. Then, of course, there's Martha Gellhorn, Hemingway's third wife, who went onshore on D-Day when women were banned from going to the front by sneaking onto a ship as a stretcher-bearer.

—Molly Crabapple

People will read into a reporter's story a bias that they want to see in a reporter.
—Garrett M. Graff

I had rather be called a journalist than an artist.
—H. G. Wells

Men still control the news, both on and off camera.
—Jessica Savitch

I think a newspaper should be provocative, stir 'em up.
—Rupert Murdoch

In America journalism is apt to be regarded as an extension of history: in Britain, as an extension of conversation.
—Anthony Sampson

Is this what the future of news looks like? The landscape is changing drastically, as traditional newspapers continue their advertising free-fall, while the growth is all online—from Facebook, and Snapchat to celebrity sites like TMZ, the heavily partisan blogs of Daily Kos or Breitbart, or the Huffington Post's platoons of unpaid scribes. Longtime newspaper fans worry that a civic apocalypse is afoot, as the 'just the facts' style of last century's papers morphs into a slurry of hot takes, tweets and six-second Vine videos.
—Clive Thompson

Before newspapers came along, the only people who had regular access to news were the wealthy. Merchants would trade information via letters or buy encyclicals from expert scribes who compiled news from abroad. The idea that a mass public might want to read regularly published info didn't arrive in American until the late 17th and early 18th centuries—when printers began crafting the first made-in-America papers.
—Clive Thompson

Reporters invented an innovative news gathering technique: Instead of merely reprinting politicians' speeches, they'd ask questions and grill them. 'The interview was an American invention,' notes Michael Schudson, a journalism professor at Columbia University. European papers didn't do this; it seemed too impertinent to question authority so openly. But scrappy Americans had no such pieties. Indeed, as American reporters became more investigative, social critics got worried. 'Our reporterized press,' complained Harper's Magazine, 'is often truculently reckless of privacy and decency.'
—Clive Thompson

There was one population shut out from the newspaper boom, though: blacks. During slavery, American newspapers ignored blacks, except when they ran wild tales claiming they had poisoned their owners or committed burglaries. (Sections devoted to them were given names like ‘The Proceedings of the Rebellious Negroes.’) By 1827, a group of freed blacks decided to found their own newspaper, *Freedom’s Journal*. ‘We wish to plead our own cause,’ they wrote in their first issue. ‘Too long have others spoken for us.’ The black press was born, and soon there were dozens of black papers dotted across the country.

Getting their papers out required seat-of-the-pants ingenuity, even at the turn of the 20th century, because whites were often hostile to this upstart media. When Robert Abbott started the *Chicago Defender* in 1905, he found it hard to distribute in the South. ‘Once they realized it was out there, they tried to censor it—they’d arrest you if they saw you reading it, using vagrancy laws,’ says Clint C. Wilson II, a journalism professor emeritus at Howard University, and shipments of the paper were thrown in the trash.

—Clive Thompson

Sure, some journalists use anonymous sources just because they’re lazy and I think editors ought to insist on more precise identification even if they remain anonymous.

—Ben Bradlee

The world has grown tired of preachers and sermons; to-day it asks for facts.

—Clarence Darrow
(1894)

In the 20th century the newspaper as a product didn’t fundamentally change for 100 years. Giving birth to a new news product is now a monthly event.

—Jay Rosen

One of the more unsettling parts of today’s news is how partisan it has become. Is it possible to have a serious civic culture when so many online news organizations wear their perspectives on their sleeve? Can they be trusted? Mitchell Stephens, the NYU professor, thinks so, and indeed he’s a defender of the voicier style of today’s news. Today’s writers are more free to offer perspective, so the news makes more sense. The ‘just the facts’ style of the last century meant newspapers could sometimes feel like a recitation of disconnected trivia.

—Clive Thompson

I can’t lie and say there are no bad writers. Sorry, but there are lots of bad writers. Some are on-staff at your local newspaper, usually reviewing little-theater productions or pontificating about the local sports teams.

—Stephen King

Today's best journalism, richer with context and personality, is in some ways a throwback to an older form of journalism—Ben Franklin's form of journalism, the journalism of the people who made the American Revolution, Tom Paine's journalism. And it can actually be a higher form of journalism than the one I was born into.
—Mitchell Stephens

The rank and file tended to write like bookkeepers.
—H.L. Mencken (1900)

I'm convinced that fear is at the root of most bad writing. If one is writing for one's own pleasure, that fear may be mild—timidity is the word I've used here. If, however, one is working under deadline—a school paper, a newspaper article, the SAT writing sample—that fear may be intense. Dumbo got airborne with the help of a magic feather; you may feel the urge to grasp a passive verb or one of those nasty adverbs for the same reason. Just remember before you do that Dumbo didn't need the feather; the magic was in him.
—Stephen King

A writer should never write about the extraordinary. That is for the journalist.
--James Joyce

Mainstream media tend to just mouth the conventional wisdom, to see everything through the filter of right and left.
—Arianna Huffington

I can remember a reporter asking me for a quote, and I didn't know what a quote was. I thought it was some kind of soft drink.
—Joe DiMaggio

To read a newspaper is to refrain from reading something worth while. The first discipline of education must therefore be to refuse resolutely to feed the mind with canned chatter.
—Aleister Crowley

Virtually every magazine, newspaper, TV station and cable channel is owned by a big corporation, and they've squashed stories that they don't want the public to know about.
—Tom Scholz

Serious writers, I should say, are on the whole more vain and self-centered than journalists, though less interested in money.
—George Orwell

Never refuse an assignment except when there is a conflict of interest, a potential of danger to you or your family, or you hold a strongly biased attitude about the subject under focus.

—Jessica Savitch

You lie awake at 3 in the morning thinking of story ideas. You're online at 8 a.m. on a Sunday or midnight on a Wednesday. It's a job that you never push aside.

—James Daly

Journalism is very good training, because you are forced to write every day. Even though you were writing journalese, even though you were writing in clichés a lot of the time, it was great discipline.

--Leon Edel

Because if we the storytellers don't do this, then the bad people will win.

—Christiane
Amanpour

Rage is the only quality which has kept me, or anybody I have ever studied, writing columns for newspapers.

—Jimmy Breslin

Paramount among the responsibilities of a free press is the duty to prevent any part of the government from deceiving the people and sending them off to distant lands to die of foreign fevers and foreign shot and shell.

—Hugo Black

I was visiting my daughter last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper. 'This is the 21st century' she said. 'We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, use my iPad.'

I can tell you this....that fly never knew what hit him.

—Unknown

Consider children as a beat. Clearly not an institution of power, children don't vote and they don't pass taxes. They have no money, and they don't buy newspapers or watch the news on television. Consequently, children are one of the most neglected segments of society in the news, except as a subtopic of other power beats such as education, family, and crime. Children are in serious trouble in this society, which means the foundation of our society is in trouble, which means the future is in trouble, and that is news.

--Joan Konner

Europe has a press that stresses opinions; America a press, radio, and television that emphasize news.

—James Reston

Journalism students need to understand it and need a solid background in the liberal arts, in sociology, economics, literature and language, because they won't get it later on.

—Harrison Salisbury

Journalism over here is not only an obsession but a drawback that cannot be over-rated. Politicians are frightened of the press, and in the same way as bull-fighting has a brutalizing effect upon Spain (of which she is unconscious), headlines of murder, rape, and rubbish, excite and demoralize the American public.

--Margot Asquith

The view of the world offered by the press is primarily from the top down, not from the bottom up. That is why newspaper readership correlates directly with class and socioeconomic status—the rich subscribe far more than the poor, a demographic imbalance appreciated by advertisers.

—Richard Harwood

The press has abandoned its referee function. If Bob Dole says the moon is made of green cheese, and the president says no, it's made of rock, the headline reads, 'Dole, Clinton Spar on Lunar Landscape.'

—Paul Begala

Look at how prizes are given for journalism. They're given out for finding the smoking gun, for bringing someone down. You don't see a whole lot of prizes given out for the most balanced, nuanced profile of someone in public life.

—Ellen Hume

Journalism has not changed at all, fundamentally. Journalism is that folks read what I write or listen to what I have to say and I will tell you what happened today. That's really all there is to it, gathering it and delivering it. We have more delivery systems than we used to have, but what is delivered is essentially the same.

—David Brinkley

My cat is such a snob; I had to paper train him with the *New York Times*.

—Will Teed

Newspaper: Hobo laptop.

—Chris Hardwick

For a journalist not to print what he or she knew to be true—whether it was that FDR had to have help to take his pants off or that JFK needed help to keep his on—was to enter into a conspiracy to suppress truth. Yet, in view of what the new order has brought about, it's hard not to feel a twinge of nostalgia for the old system.

—Adam Gopnik

An amazing thing I saw in the New York Times was that at college graduations in the last month, the most popular speakers have been television anchormen and anchorwomen. When I went to school, at graduation you wanted to see a famous poet, a famous theologian, a famous philosopher. And now they want to see some idiot who reads the news off the TelePrompTer.

—James Warren

...seventh grade level...is generally the level of effective mass communication—newscasts, advertising, speeches.

—James Fallows

Journalists rarely see something good result from their work.

—Roger Rosenblatt

The news media has adopted an attitude of aggressive defensiveness when it comes to its almost constant errors in covering trials. Media excuses have become so predictable that I've made a catalog of them. Here are my favorite excuses of media mistakes. They're taken from media journals and public statements by leading journalists:

'We got it from the Associated Press.'

'If it's wrong now, it will get fixed later. Who does it hurt?'

'So what? Isn't it better to err on the side of the public's right to know?'

'The truth will come out eventually, especially if there's a trial.'

'Our job is to make as many people aware as soon as possible of the situation that might affect them, could affect them, may some day affect them, or of which they should have been aware, years ago, when it happened.'

'So get out there and refute the allegations.'

'Allegations don't have to be true; they just have to be important.'

'They should have known this would be misinterpreted.'

'Look, the only thing worse would have been our not being allowed in the courtroom.'

—James Lukaszewski

It's nice to know about something as soon as it happens, and obviously a newspaper can't provide that.

—Tabitha Soren

My mother...grew up under an occupying dictatorship, with no right to an education, no free press, no freedom of religion. no freedom to assemble peaceably, no right to vote. No right to free speech. She raised a journalist who understood not to take these rights for granted....Journalists walk into the newsroom every day to do their jobs. When they do, they pass by an inscription that fills an entire wall, floor to ceiling. It is 45 words long. It is an idea that is in my thoughts a lot these days. It is the First Amendment.

—Mi-Ai Parrish

Emotions get in the way [but] they don't pay me to start crying at the loss of 269 lives. They pay me to put some perspective on the situation.

—Ted Koppel

Journalists are like dogs, when ever anything moves they begin to bark.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

So no one should rely on television either for their knowledge of music or for news. There's just more going on. It's an adjunct to the written word, which I think is still the most important thing.

—Kurt Loder

What I'm thinking about more and more these days is simply the importance of transparency, and Jefferson's saying that he'd rather have a free press without a government than a government without a free press.

—Esther Dyson

I tell my students, even if you are an opinion journalist, your opinion should be based on facts.

—M. Stanton Evans

I read the paper every day and the Bible every day; that way I know what both sides are up to.

—Zig Ziglar

We are in a 'post-truth' era, where facts don't matter, and all journalism is about attitude and opinion. 'If you have a society where people can't agree on basic facts, how do you have a functioning democracy?' asks Marty Baron, the executive editor of the *Washington Post*. Good question. The answer is you cannot. And the only institution that can provide those 'basic facts' is a free, fierce, fearless press. That's the American Way.

—Cokie and Steve
Roberts

Sunday paper is the worst. Weekend. You want to relax. ‘Oh, by the way, here’s a thousand pages of information you had no idea about.’ How can they tell you everything they know every single day of the week and then have this much left over on Sunday when nothing’s going on?

—Jerry Seinfeld

According to *BuzzFeed*, the website that covers trends, focusing on rumor and gossip, in the last three months of the electoral campaign, the 20 top fake news stories on Facebook generated more engagement than the 20 top stories from real websites....this problem of fake news and what happens next—or what does not happen next—will tell us what kind of country we have become because, without accurate news of the world, and ourselves, how can we possibly act sensibly or honestly? In case you haven’t noticed, all the meaningful reporting still comes from newspapers, public television, and a handful of serious journals and their reporters. And yet the citizens of America blithely and self-indulgently go about spending hours on the internet, mostly without knowing a takeoff from a takedown, a revolution from an evolution or an execution from a murder.

—Georgie Anne Geyer

Young journalists in China...had decided that there was no point in even trying to report on their society’s challenges. ‘Being a journalist has no meaning any more,’ a person identified as ‘a thirtysomething editor from one of China’s leading news organisations’....‘My greatest feeling is that in recent years the industry’s freedoms have reached their lowest ebb in history.’

—James Fallows

If there had been a censorship of the press in Rome we should have had today neither Horace nor Juvenal, nor the philosophical writings of Cicero.

--Voltaire

To limit the press is to insult a nation; to prohibit reading of certain books is to declare the inhabitants to be either fools or slaves.

--Claude Adrien
Helvetius

There are only two forces that can carry light to all the corners of the globe... the sun in the heavens and the Associated Press down here.

—Mark Twain

The one function that TV news performs very well is that when there is no news we give it to you with the same emphasis as if there were.

—David Brinkley

I fear three newspapers more than a hundred thousand bayonets
—Napoleon

When distant and unfamiliar and complex things are communicated to great masses of people, the truth suffers a considerable and often a radical distortion. The complex is made over into the simple, the hypothetical into the dogmatic, and the relative into an absolute.

--Walter Lippmann

Through the electronic media, young children are witnesses to 'facts' that contradict social myths and ideals even before they learn about the myths and ideals in school. Children see politicians disgraced, police officers and teachers on strike for higher pay, parents accused of battering their children. Through television news and entertainment, children learn too much about the nature of the 'real' life to believe the ideals their teachers try to teach them. The result is not only that they grow up fast, but that they grow up having an image of society and roles that differs markedly from that held by children of earlier generations.

--Joshua Meyrowitz

The distrust of legitimate journalism is no joking matter. What happens to democracy when an uninformed, misinformed, or dis-informed populace tries to make sound decisions? The simple and terrible answer is, democracy fails.

—Kathleen Parker

Commercial TV teaches people to scorn complexity and to feel, not think. It has come to present society as a pagan circus of freaks, pseudo heroes and wild morons. It helps immeasurably to worsen the defects of American public education and of tabloid news in print.

--Robert Hughes

American journalists today...have been forced and lured out of their normal and proper role in our society. They are becoming not just the critics in the aisle but actors in the play.

--Eric Sevareid

Woe is me...because less than 3 percent of you people read books! Because less than 15 percent of you read newspapers! Because the only truth you know is what you get over this tube.

--Peter Finch as Howard
Beale, in *Network*

It is Obscene to keep Printing Newspapers in the Digital Era

—Vineet Raj Kapoor

I still believe there was something to be said, in cultural terms, for the idea of everyone gathered around the radio or the television, waiting to hear the latest from a trusted voice like Murrow or Cronkite. A kind of civic glue was applied there that we don't have today.

--Michael Tomasky

The TV business is uglier than most things. It is normally perceived as some kind of cruel and shallow money trench through the heart of the journalism industry, a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free and good men die like dogs, for no good reason.

—Hunter S. Thompson

I see journalists as the manual workers, the laborers of the word. Journalism can only be literature when it is passionate.

—Marguerite Duras

I respect very much the role of the media in our society; I think they can be very, very helpful. They serve as a very useful check, sort of a watchdog over the actions of the government, and I respect that.

—Alberto Gonzales

Reporters are not scientific. They do not follow scientific methods. They write to sell, not to educate. The scientist is not concerned with what sells. He is concerned with the truth. He undertakes years of painstaking study to arrive at an understanding of intricate natural processes that most people could never presume to comprehend. You would do well to listen to science and ignore the nonsense that is printed in the newspapers.

—D. W. Gregory

The secret of a successful newspaper is to take one story each day and bang the hell out of it. Give the public what it wants to have and part of what it ought to have whether it wants it or not.

—Herbert Bayard Swope

[On being a TV news star] We all think [it's] the movie version, that it's all glory and glamour. That might be 1 percent. The rest is the hard slog: doing an enormous amount of research, sweating out scripts, arguing with producers about how best to frame a story. I think that what people might perceive as the glamorous part of our job is the tiniest part of the job, and the least fun.

—Elizabeth Vargas

The *Los Angeles Times* still carried more words every day than appear in the *New Testament*.

—Joan Didion

Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half.

—Gore Vidal

As a reporter, I approach every situation knowing that everyone has his or her own agenda. It's not a bad thing; it's just a fact.

—Maria Bartiromo

America is a country of inventors, and the greatest of inventors are the newspaper men.

—Alexander Graham
Bell

I would say that the war correspondent gets more drinks, more girls, better pay, and greater freedom than the soldier, but at this stage of the game, having the freedom to choose his spot and being allowed to be a coward and not be executed for it is his torture.

—Robert Capa

The press should be not only a collective propagandist and a collective agitator, but also a collective organizer of the masses.

—Vladimir Lenin

As a journalist, it is so easy to get hardened when you see so many stories that are disturbing. Sometimes it's just your survival mechanism that makes you hardened to some of it.

—Linda Vester

Journalists are supposed to consider the sources' motives before promising anonymity. It should be reserved for people who are going to face danger or harm, and also for people who possess information that can't be obtained anywhere else. Make sure the person isn't requesting anonymity for some ridiculous reasons, like being embarrassed about being quoted in the media. And the information should be vital to the public and something you can't get anywhere else. Journalists should explain why anonymity is granted.

—Andrew Seaman

The right really dominates radio, and it's amazing how much energy the right spends telling us that the press is slanted to the left when it really isn't. They want to shut other people up. They really don't understand the First Amendment.

—Roger Ebert

If the press of the world would adopt and persist in the high resolve that war should be no more, the clangor of arms would cease.

--John Hay

How is the world ruled and how do wars start? Diplomats tell lies to journalists and then believe what they read.

--Karl Kraus

If you don't read the newspaper, you are uninformed. If you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed.

—Mark Twain

One of the sad things about contemporary journalism is that it actually matters very little. The world now is almost inured to the power of journalism. The best journalism would manage to outrage people. And people are less and less inclined to outrage.

—David Simon

People who are drawn to journalism are interested in what happens from the ground up less than they are from the top down.

—Tom Brokaw

At the beginning of this century, journalism was in extremis. Recessions, coupled with readers' changing habits, prodded media companies to gamble on a digital future unencumbered by the clunky apparatus of publishing on paper. Over a decade, the number of newspaper employees dropped by 38 percent. As journalism shriveled, its prestige plummeted. One report ranked newspapers reporters as the worst job in America. The profession found itself forced to reconsider its very reasons for existing. All the old nostrums about independence suddenly seemed like unaffordable luxuries.

—Franklin Foer

This is an inverted pyramid. It's how you write news stories, with the most important things at the top, and moving down to the least important things at the end. That's so the editor can cut the copy if necessary, and the most important things will still make it into the newspaper.

—Dave Dreier

Include the things you think readers need to know: the two basic things everyone wants to know about local government are how much it will cost, and who's going to pay.

—Dave Dreier

I believe democracy flourishes when the government can take legitimate steps to keep its secrets and when the press can decide whether to print what it knows.

—Katherine Graham

Leaks and whispers are a daily routine of news-gathering in Washington.

—William Greider

Democracy dies in darkness.

—*Washington Post*
Masthead

In a time of 'fake news,' darkness settles when people can no longer tell the difference.

—Kathleen Parker

The 'information' landscape today is so fraught with opinion, illogical assertions, ideology, conspiracy theories, satire, rumor, unsubstantiated claims and propaganda that it is difficult to divine news from opinion and fact from fiction...

Accepting unquestionably whatever someone tells you is what has gotten this world in trouble many times. Doing so solves nothing and only adds to the decline of our civilization....

If you look objectively at what Snopes.com does, you'll see that it shows you the evidence it has collected to prove or disprove something. It deals and facts, not opinions.

In the modern world, if you want the truth you need to work at it. The truth sometimes is ugly. It might challenge how you've always thought about things. Would you buy a horse without checking it's teeth? Would you buy a car without giving it a test drive or having a trusted mechanic give it a once-over? No, of course not. So why would you buy someone's assertions without benefit of evidence? The truth is out there. You just need to work to find it.

Facts matter. Support a free press.

—*Daily Herald* Editorial

Gonzo Journalism: Learning to fly as you're falling.

—Hunter S. Thompson

A journalist spends the first half of his career writing about things he doesn't understand, and the second half concealing the fact that he understands them only too well.

—Pierre Lazareff

A favorite refuge of politicians, when caught in a crack, is to claim that they were misquoted in the press, and the chances are ten to one that they were. That is, they were misquoted in that the reporter cleaned up the rhetoric, supplied the missing verbs, and made sure that their predicates agreed in some general way with her subjects.

The nastiest thing a reporter could do to a politician would be to quote him absolutely accurately down to every ouh, or, well, you see, that is, and so on.

—Bill Vaughn

It is Obscene to keep Printing Newspapers in the Digital Era.

--Vineet Raj Kapoor

The once plentiful herds of magazine writers would continue to be culled—by the Internet, by the recession, by the American public, who would rather watch TV or play video games or electronically inform friends that, like, 'rain sucks!'

--Gillian Flynn

Of course, in television's presentation of the 'news of the day,' we may see the 'Now...this' mode of discourse in it's boldest and most embarrassing form. For there, we are presented not only with fragmented news but news without context, without consequences, without value, and therefore without essential seriousness; that is to say, news as pure entertainment.

--Neil Postman

All the papers that matter live off their advertisements, and the advertisers exercise an indirect censorship over news.

--George Orwell

The media are desperately afraid of being accused of bias. And that's partly because there's a whole machine out there, an organized attempt to accuse them of bias whenever they say anything that the Right doesn't like. So rather than really try to report things objectively, they settle for being even-handed, which is not the same thing. One of my lines in a column—in which a number of people thought I was insulting them personally—was that if Bush said the Earth was flat, the mainstream media would have stories with the headline: 'Shape of Earth—Views Differ.' Then they'd quote some Democrats saying that it was round.

--Paul Krugman

The news isn't there to tell you what happened. It's there to tell you what it wants you to hear or what it thinks you want to hear.

--Joss Whedon

We want to believe. Young students try to believe in older authors, constituents try to believe in their congressmen, countries try to believe in their statesmen, but they can't. Too many voices, too much scattered, illogical, ill-considered criticism. It's worse in the case of newspapers. Any rich, unprogressive old party with that particularly grasping, acquisitive form of mentality known as financial genius can own a paper that is the intellectual meat and drink of thousands of tired, hurried men, men too involved in the business of modern living to swallow anything but predigested food. For two cents the voter buys his politics, prejudices and philosophy. A year later there is a new political ring or a change in the paper's ownership, consequence: more confusion, more contradiction, a sudden inrush of new ideas, their tempering, their distillation, the reaction against them.

--F. Scott Fitzgerald

I pick up a copy of *Newsweek* on the plane and immediately notice how biased, slanted, and opinionated all the U.S. newsmagazine articles are. Not that the Euro and British press aren't biased as well—they certainly are—but living in the United States we are led to believe, and are constantly reminded, that our press is fair and free of bias. After such a short time away, I am shocked at how obviously and blatantly this lie is revealed--there is the 'reporting' that is essentially parroting what the White House press secretary announces; the myriad built-in assumptions that one ceases to register after being somewhere else for a while. The myth of neutrality is an effective blanket for a host of biases.

--David Byrne

Many journalists now are no more than channelers and echoers of what George Orwell called the 'official truth'. They simply cipher and transmit lies. It really grieves me that so many of my fellow journalists can be so manipulated that they become really what the French describe as 'functionnaires', functionaries, not journalists. Many journalists become very defensive when you suggest to them that they are anything but impartial and objective. The problem with those words 'impartiality' and 'objectivity' is that they have lost their dictionary meaning. They've been taken over... [they] now mean the establishment point of view... Journalists don't sit down and think, 'I'm now going to speak for the establishment.' Of course not. But they internalise a whole set of assumptions, and one of the most potent assumptions is that the world should be seen in terms of its usefulness to the West, not humanity.

--John Pilger

I used to think the most important thing for a reporter was to be where the news is and be the first to know. Now I feel a reporter should be able to effect change. Your reporting should move people and motivate people to change the world. Maybe this is too idealistic. Young people who want to be journalists must, first, study and, second, recognize that they should never be the heroes of the story. ..A journalist must be curious, and must be humble.

—Zhou Yijun

Right now, anyone who is offended about anything—whether it’s the fact that a book about racism was assigned in a university class, or that Christmas trees were banned at the local mall, or the fact that taxes were raised half a percent on investment funds—feels as though they’re being oppressed in some way and therefore deserved to be outraged and to have a certain amount of attention. The current media environment both encourages and perpetuates these reactions because, after all, it’s good for business.

--Mark Manson

‘A good journalist must be neutral,’ were the first words she heard from her professor at Georgetown.

‘No journalist is, nor will be, nor really should be neutral,’ were the first word spoken to her by editor-in-chief of the Des Moines Register. ‘We’re all biased one way or the other and that’s fine. It’s like in the court of law, two points of view clashing so the truth can emerge. Being objective is not the same as being neutral.’

--Krzysztof Pacyński

Newspapers take peoples’ tragedies and force the world to experience all of it.

--Rebecca McNutt

The corporate media spends a lot of time covering the lifestyles of the rich and the famous, but not all that much time covering the poor and the desperate. To a large degree, these people, the millions of poor people in America, are invisible, living under the radar screen. Their suffering is not seen on our evening news. But it’s there.

--Bernie Sanders

If you do not read the newspaper, the lack of knowledge will show. If you do read it, misconception of reality will prevail.

--Stephen Clayworth

Newspapers abound, and though they have endured decades of decline in readership and influence, they can still form impressive piles if no one takes them out to the trash.

--Jon Stewart

The media's job is not to inform you; it is to get eyeballs. Eyeballs lead to advertising revenue. That means they need people to read stuff and view stuff. Telling everyone things are going to work out just fine doesn't get eyeballs the way feeding into fear does. That doesn't just explain financial news; it explains most of the news.

--Peter Mallouk

The images we seldom see are the aftermath of violent deaths. Your family newspaper will not print photos of the puddled suicide who jumped from the fourteenth floor. No car wrecks with the body parts unevenly distributed, no murder victim sprawled in his own juices. Despite the endless preaching against violent crime, despite the enormous and avid audience for mayhem, these images are taboo.

--Sean Tejaratchi

No greater mistake can be made than to assume that newspapers are correct indices of public opinion.

--Harold Holzer

The public's dilemma is to know how to consume the news with an ability to extract opinion from the simple facts and evidence... The best solution to the fact/opinion dilemma is to acquire more diverse information across the ideological and geological divide. If you find yourself relying on one source of information for the news, whether right or left, you are likely to be exposed to more opinion that reinforces rather than challenges your own.

--Nancy Snow

You have to adjust for your audience. When I was working for the *Washington Post*, I would drop more political references in my stories because that was the currency of that town. When I got to the *LA Times*, I had to drop in more entertainment industry references, because that's what makes that town go. When I got to ESPN, I had to realize I was writing for a strictly sports audience, a hardcore sports audience that didn't want to stray too far from the meat and potatoes of sports. They didn't want the side dishes. You do have to take into consideration that people might be reading me in China, Australia or South America.

—J. A. Adanda

Now that everyone has a voice, it's even more essential that yours stands out. There are ways to do that. You can have unique information. You can have unique perspective. You can have distinctive styles. Those are all things that can emerge from this huge pool of voices out there, this cacophony of noise.

—J. A. Adanda

In the end, you make your reputation and you have your success based upon credibility and being able to provide people who are really hungry for information what they want.

—Brit Hume

In the absence of a confirmed fact, rumors are usually sanctified as the truth. And that is what goes out there in the media.

--Nitin Sharma

Television news is akin to audible wallpaper.

--George F. Will

There's a long-standing debate in the media biz over whether the news outlets should give the public what it wants, or what it needs. This debate presupposes that media execs actually know what it wants or needs. And that there actually is a unitary 'public.'

--Brooke Gladstone

Everything we hate about the media today was present at its creation: its corrupt or craven practitioners, its easy manipulation by the powerful, its capacity for propagating lies, its penchant for amplifying rage. Also present was everything we admire and require: factual information, penetrating analysis, probing investigation, truth spoken to power.

--Brooke Gladstone

Being a spectator of calamities taking place in an other country is a quintessential modern experience, the cumulative offering by more than a century and a half's worth of those professional, specialized tourists known as journalists.

—Susan Sontag

Today, reports of the day's events are conveyed to the viewing public by way of alternate universes, The Fox News cable channel conveys its version of reality, while at the other end of the ideological spectrum MSNBC presents its version. They and their many counterparts on radio are more the result of an economic dynamic than a political one. Dispatching journalists into the field to gather information costs money; hiring a glib bloviator is relatively cheap, and inviting opinionated guests to vent on the air is entirely cost-free. It wouldn't work if it weren't popular, and audiences, it turns out, are endlessly absorbed by hearing amplified echoes of their own biases. It's divisive and damaging to the healthy functioning of our political system, but it's also indisputably inexpensive and, therefore, good business.

--Ted Koppel

Newspapers might have as much to do in shaping the course of public events as politicians.

--David Halberstam

Until he (Time's founder Henry Luce) arrived, news was crime and politics.

--David Halberstam

Washingtonians love the 'So-and-so is spinning in his grave' cliché. Someone is always speculating about how some great dead American would be scandalized over some crime against How It Used to Be. The Founding Fathers are always spinning in their graves over something, as is Ronald Reagan, or FDR. Edward R. Murrow is a perennial grave spinner in the news business (though in fact, Murrow was cremated).

--Mark Leibovich

Perhaps the media may not always be telling what to think, but it is always telling you what to think about.

--James Rozoff

To your request of my opinion of the manner in which a newspaper should be conducted, so as to be most useful, I should answer, 'by restraining it to true facts & sound principles only.' Yet I fear such a paper would find few subscribers. It is a melancholy truth, that a suppression of the press could not more completely deprive the nation of its benefits, than is done by its abandoned prostitution to falsehood. Nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper. Truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle. The real extent of this state of misinformation is known only to those who are in situations to confront facts within their knowledge with the lies of the day. I really look with commiseration over the great body of my fellow citizens, who, reading newspapers, live & die in the belief, that they have known something of what has been passing in the world in their time; whereas the accounts they have read in newspapers are just as true a history of any other period of the world as of the present, except that the real names of the day are affixed to their fables. General facts may indeed be collected from them, such as that Europe is now at war, that Bonaparte has been a successful warrior, that he has subjected a great portion of Europe to his will, &c., &c.; but no details can be relied on. I will add, that the man who never looks into a newspaper is better informed than he who reads them; inasmuch as he who knows nothing is nearer to truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods & errors. He who reads nothing will still learn the great facts, and the details are all false.

--Thomas Jefferson

(Letter to John
Norvell, 14 June
1807)

In a society where dirt sells, for every good story told as it is, you will hear the whole of that day's 10 bad stories sensationalized; although in reality, it could be that 100 good deeds happened that day which went unsung.

--Criss Jami

The type of journalism that relies on the reporter's notion of what does or doesn't 'seem' correct or controversial is self-indulgent and irresponsible. It gives credence to the belief that we can intuit our way through all the various decisions we need to make in our lives and it validates the notion that our feelings are a more reliable barometer of reality than the facts.

--Seth Mnookin

...the ravenous monsters men called reporters; sub-human vermin who feed off misery and created it wherever they went.

--Christopher G. Nuttall

Freedom of the press can never be the licence to say anything one desires. Freedom of the press is not the freedom to slander and attack and must never be used to fight other people's wars. It does not mean manipulating a story into speaking your views. One might think it common sense but in the world of journalism a lot of what makes sense is lost to the lure of favouritism, greed and fame. Sadly, in this truth-telling business truth is hard to find.

--Aysha Taryam

If people in the media cannot decide whether they are in the business of reporting news or manufacturing propaganda, it is all the more important that the public understand that difference, and choose their news sources accordingly.

--Thomas Sowell

The daily press and the telegraph, which in a moment spreads inventions over the whole earth, fabricate more myths (and the bourgeois cattle believe and enlarge upon them) in one day than could have formerly been done in a century.

--Karl Marx

You could have done something with newspapers. We didn't do it. No nation did, because we were all too silly. We liked our newspapers with pictures of beach girls and headlines about cases of indecent assault, and no Government was wise enough to stop us having them that way. But something might have been done with newspapers, if we'd been wise enough.

--Nevil Shute

Not only are we digital immigrants, we are also media dinosaurs. We enjoy thumbing through glossy magazines, and maybe still subscribe to a daily newspaper. We schedule at least one evening per week around a favorite TV program, created by one of the major television or cable networks. We can name at least one local or national news anchor. And scattered around our homes and offices are veritable graveyards of physical media — old tapes, vinyl records, floppy disks, and magazines—that we insist on keeping, even though we'll probably never use them again.

--Ian Lamont

There is filth on the floor, and it must be scraped up with the muck-rake.

--Theodore Roosevelt

It's becoming obvious to most that mainstream media is nothing but a megaphone for the global elite to present biased news that's designed to align the masses with their agenda.

--James Morcan

Unfortunately, mainstream news has become infotainment, sharing more in common with the entertainment industry than with traditional journalism. Gossip, characterizations and injections of drama are subtly infused with facts, altering the truth in a similar way to how dramatists twist true stories to create greater excitement.

--Lance Morcan

Media consumers in the 0s, 10s, 20s, and 30s have no such print alliances. To them, the idea of printing on a dead tree and then trucking it to houses and newsstands seems ludicrous, old-fashioned, inconvenient, and wasteful. To these folks, paper-based publications are a pain to carry and search, easy to misplace, and hard to share, and the information in them is outdated the moment it appears. For those who weren't raised on paper, digital is superior in almost every way.

—Bill Bloodgett

A primary reason that people believe that life is getting worse is because our information about the problems of the world has steadily improved. If there is a battle today somewhere on the planet, we experience it almost as if we were there. During World War II, tens of thousands of people might perish in a battle, and if the public could see it at all it was in a grainy newsreel in a movie theater weeks later. During World War I a small elite could read about the progress of the conflict in the newspaper (without pictures). During the nineteenth century there was almost no access to news in a timely fashion for anyone.

--Ray Kurzweil

The owners and top managers of most news media organizations tend to be conservative and Republican. This is hardly surprising. The shareholders and executives of multi-billion-dollar corporations are not very interested in undermining the free enterprise system, for example, income from offended advertisers. These owners and managers ultimately decide which reporters, newscasters, and editors to hire or fire, promote or discourage. Journalists who want to get a head, therefore, may have to come to terms with the policies of the people who own and run media businesses.

— Edward S. Greenberg

No country was ever ruled by so mean a class of tyrants as, with a few noble exceptions, are the editors of the periodical press in this country. And as they live and rule only by their servility, and appealing to the worst, and not the better nature of man, the people who read them are in the condition of the dog that returns to his vomit.

--Henry David Thoreau

Think of it: a photographer presses a button. A few hours later and half a world away, some dots of ink on a news print showed what he had seen-and had the power to touch peoples emotions, perhaps to change their way of thinking.

--Soheir Khashoggi

Journalism is not a precise science, it's a crude art.

--Dan Rather

When did fact checking and journalism go their separate ways?

--Jon Stewart

The news media are, for the most part, the bringers of bad news... and it's not entirely the media's fault, bad news gets higher ratings and sells more papers than good news.

--Peter McWilliams

Objectivity is a peculiar demand to make of institutions which, as business corporations, are dedicated first of all to economic survival. It is a peculiar demand to make of institutions which often, by tradition or explicit credo, are political organs. It is a peculiar demand to make of editors and reporters who have none of the professional apparatus which, for doctors or lawyers or scientists, is supposed to guarantee objectivity.

--Michael Schudson

To a philosopher all news, as it is called, is gossip, and they who edit and read it are old women over their tea.

—Henry David Thoreau

Celebrity culture has gone crazy, and I think the reason is that real news is just not bearable, and it also seems impossible to change anything.

—Chris Martin

The whole notion of journalism being an institution whose fundamental purpose is to educate and inform and even, one might say, elevate, has altered under commercial pressure, perhaps, into a different kind of purpose, which is to divert and distract and entertain.

—Tom Stoppard

Our democracy needs a robust press to hold our leaders accountable and cover the important issues facing our communities. The First Amendment belongs to all of us.

—*freepress.net*

We can't quite decide if the world is growing worse, or if the reporters are just working harder.

—*The Houghton Line*

Exaggeration of every kind is as essential to journalism as it is to the dramatic art; for the object of journalism is to make events go as far as possible. Thus it is that all journalists are, in the very nature of their calling, alarmists; and this is their way of giving interest to what they write. Herein they are like little dogs; if anything stirs, they immediately set up a shrill bark.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

It was while making newspaper deliveries, trying to miss the bushes and hit the porch, that I first learned the importance of accuracy in journalism.

—Charles Osgood

Newspapers widen the sphere of our sympathies. They make their readers enter into the joys and sorrows of thousands of whom they would else know nothing, and for whom they would otherwise care nothing. But still, journalism is but in the initial stage of its development. As at present conducted, the world is not fairly represented by its newspapers. Life is something better than journals make it out to be. They are too much the records of the crimes that curse, and the casualties that afflict it—the contests of litigants, and the strifes of politicians. Of the sweeter amenities of life the newspaper is far too silent. Therefore, newspapers should be read late in the day. To read the journals in the early morning, is to pollute the stream of the day at its source.

—Christian Nestell
Bovee (1862)

The newspaper is the second-hand in the clock of history; and it is not only made of baser metal than those which point to the minute and the hour, but it seldom goes right.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

Today intimidation of the press is a standard item on the agenda of the organized political right. There are self-appointed monitors who circulate denunciations of articles and television programs that depart from their ideology.

—Anthony Lewis

Newspapers: dead trees with information smeared on them.

—BBC Programme
Horizon

I always turn to the sports section first. The sports section records people's accomplishments; the front page nothing but man's failures.

—Earl Warren

If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read: 'President Can't Swim.'

—Lyndon B. Johnson

They kill good trees to put out bad newspapers.

—James G. Watt

A newspaper consists of just the same number of words, whether there be any news in it or not.

—Henry Fielding

Harmony seldom makes a headline.

—Silas Bent

Newspapers are unable, seemingly, to discriminate between a bicycle accident and the collapse of civilisation.

—George Bernard Shaw

You can crush a man with journalism.

—William Randolph
Hearst

You don't realize how little accuracy there is in network TV reporting until they cover a story in your hometown.

—Robert Brault

If it's called the *USA Today*, why is all the news from yesterday? BAM. Busted!
—Stephen Colbert

If you're not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing.
—Malcolm X

The secret of successful journalism is to make your readers so angry they will write half your paper for you.
—C. E. M. Joad

A newspaper, as I'm sure you know, is a collection of supposedly true stories written down by writers who either saw them happen or talked to people who did. These writers are called journalists, and like telephone operators, butchers, ballerinas, and people who clean up after horses, journalists can sometimes make mistakes.
—Lemony Snicket

Literature is the art of writing something that will be read twice; journalism what will be grasped at once.
—Cyril Connolly

ACT research shows that college students who have studied high school journalism or who have worked on high school newspapers and yearbooks score significantly higher on various ACT tests than do those students who have not had such experiences, have a higher cumulative grade average as college freshmen, and score higher in their first collegiate English courses....publications activities provide a creative outlet for talented students within the school's curricular or cocurricular offerings.
—Dorothy McPhillips

A study was made of 1,204 students from 18 colleges and universities....When compared with students who had not served on a publications staff, students who did serve on a school newspaper or yearbook staff:

- Were likely to choose communications as a college major or career choice in 10 percent of the cases.
- Were about four times more likely to choose communications as their first occupational choice and as their first choice of college major.
- Had significantly higher ACT Comp Total Writing scores and significantly higher ACT Comp Writing.

—Dorothy McPhillips

All of us learn to write by the second grade, then most of us go on to other things.
Bobby Knight [On
reporters]

Journalism is one of the best high school language arts courses....the competencies rated highest are:

- Ability to organize a piece of writing for a specific purpose and audience
- Ability to vary writing style for different readers and purposes
- Ability to improve writing through self-editing, correcting errors, and re-writing sentences and paragraphs
- Ability to write nonfiction concisely, with clarity, accuracy, and objectivity
- Ability to edit, for a specific audience, the writing of others
- Ability to separate personal opinions and assumptions from those of a writer
- Ability to answer and ask questions coherently and concisely, and to follow spoken instructions
- Ability to identify and comprehend the main and subordinate ideas in lectures and discussions and to report accurately what others have said
- Ability to identify and formulate problems and to propose and evaluate ways to solve them
- Ability to write persuasively about issues related to school and non-school issues
- Ability to draw reasonable conclusions from information found in various sources, whether written, spoken, or displayed in tables and graphs
- Ability to deal with conflicts while working with other people on a project
- Development of a sense of responsibility, leadership, and personal maturity
- Development of self-confidence and self-esteem
- Development of a sense of accomplishment and involvement in the school and community.

—Dorothy McPhillips

- Strong journalism programs have significant academic and human development value.
- Strong journalism programs offer students excellent classroom experiences and directed independent study in the laboratory setting, which enable students to develop and refine communication skills.
- Student management and control of publications can develop and promote responsibility.
- Research conducted through the American College Testing Service indicates a strong, positive relationship between work on publications and success in high school and college.

—*Journalism Education
Association*

Today's better journalism classes emphasize critical thinking skills. Journalism students learn to:

- Distinguish between fact and fiction
- Determine if a source is reliable
- Eliminate ambiguous statements
- Develop logical arguments supported by fact
- Recognize bias
- Determine the accuracy of statements
- Eliminate worthless information
- Develop thought-provoking questions to ask interviewees.

—Homer Hall

Good publications are most likely to be produced in schools with principals who are convinced of the value of publications and give them sustained private and public support. If the newspaper or yearbook is a failure, the principal must often share the blame.

—Benjamin W. Allnutt

[When students compared foreign newspapers to U.S. newspapers] student responses included:

- Most articles in the Buenos Aires paper were taken from other countries.
- American papers do not include European opinions on world issues.
- The *London Times* contains no cigarette or alcohol ads.
- Pravda doesn't report any crimes.
- I was surprised by the abortion and lottery ads in the *Free Press Journal* (Bombay)
- *Pravda* presents such an ideal society, the citizens must not believe it because they know their lives are far from perfect.

—Barbara Hefferman
and Susan
Casement

Interviewing, fact checking, writing, research, analysis, meeting deadlines—all are skills needed by most people. These skills and many more are part of journalism training. They are reinforced and practiced daily through work on the student publications in the school.

In fact, these experiences are so important that the Journalism Education Association reported recently that students taking journalism courses and working on publications in high school performed better in college.

—Nancy L. Green

Being a famous print journalist is like being the best-dressed woman on radio.

--Robin Williams

The newspaper provides the relevancy that is often lacking in textbooks. It has an adult image, yet is quite readable. It is often difficult to find high interest-low ability reading materials for this age student. Contrary to the erroneous statement that the newspaper is written on a fifth grade reading level, the newspaper is written on multiple reading levels. There is some part of the newspaper that every middle school student can read and enjoy. The motivation to read is built-in, because the student wants to know what is happening in the real world. Students have seen their parents reading the newspaper, and are actually proud to be seen with a newspaper tucked under their arm. Since lack of interest and motivation is a major deterrent to learning in schools today, the newspaper may indeed be the marvel medium for the middle school student.

—Dr. June Rose Richie

USING NEWSPAPERS IN MIDDLE-GRADE CLASSROOMS

The benefit that newspapers offer:

- They can motivate students, especially those turned off by conventional teaching and materials.
- They cover a wide range of subject matter.
- They promote students' interest in current events.
- They promote collaborative learning.
- They improve students' vocabulary and language skills.
- They enrich the curriculum with real-life examples.
- They promote independent, nonfiction reading.

The research supporting newspapers' education values:

- Students who use newspapers tend to score higher on standardized achievement tests than those who don't, particularly in reading, mathematics, and social studies.
- Newspaper use helps students learn how to read more effectively.
- Newspaper use increases students' vocabulary and word recognition skills, and tends to improve reading comprehension.
- Surveyed students overwhelmingly support the use of newspapers as text book supplements.
- Newspapers produce positive attitudes toward reading while increasing interest in current events.
- Newspaper use can help students improve math skills, particularly with fractions, decimals, currency, and averages.
- Students who read newspapers tend to continue reading them as adults.

—Edward F. DeRoche

Media is just a word that has come to mean bad journalism.

—Graham Greene

The press and politicians. A delicate relationship. Too close, and danger ensues. Too far apart and democracy itself cannot function without the essential exchange of information. Creative leaks, a discreet lunch, interchange in the Lobby, the art of the unattributable telephone call, late at night.

--Howard Brenton

If those who cause destruction have come to be ‘newsworthy’, and those who heal the devastation of that destruction have come to be less than ‘noteworthy’, has our thirst to be entertained become the truly destructive thing?

--Craig D. Lounsbrough

But the thought leaders on talk radio and Fox do more than shape opinion. Backed by their own wing of the book-publishing industry and supported by think tanks that increasingly function as public-relations agencies, conservatives have built a whole alternative knowledge system, with its own facts, its own history, its own laws of economics.

--David Frum

If those who cause destruction have come to be ‘newsworthy’, and those who heal the devastation of that destruction have come to be less than ‘noteworthy’, has our thirst to be entertained become the truly destructive thing?

--Craig D. Lounsbrough

Watch a man—say, a politician—being interviewed on television, as you are observing a demonstration of what both he and his interrogators learned in school: all questions have answers, and it is a good thing to give an answer even if there is none to give, even if you don’t understand the question, even if the question contains erroneous assumptions, even if you are ignorant of the facts required to answer. Have you ever heard a man being interviewed say, ‘I don’t have the faintest idea,’ or ‘I don’t know enough even to guess,’ or ‘I have been asked that question before, but all my answers to it seem to be wrong?’ One does not ‘blame’ men, especially if they are politicians, for providing instant answers to all questions. The public requires that they do, since the public has learned that instant answer giving is the most important sign of an educated man.

--Neil Postman

The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @NBCNews, @ABC, @CBS, @CNN) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American People!

—President Donald
Trump (2017)

Interviews were invented to make journalism less passive. Instead of waiting for something to happen, journalists ask someone what should or could happen.

--Mokokoma Mokhonoana

The press and politicians. A delicate relationship. Too close, and danger ensues. Too far apart and democracy itself cannot function without the essential exchange of information. Creative leaks, a discreet lunch, interchange in the Lobby, the art of the unattributable telephone call, late at night.

—Howard Brenton

We've uncovered some embarrassing ancestors in the not-too-distant past. Some horse thieves, and some people killed on Saturday nights. One of my relatives, unfortunately, was even in the newspaper business.

—Jimmy Carter

Journalism is popular, but it is popular mainly as fiction. Life is one world, and life seen in the newspapers is another.

—G. K. Chesterton

It is a seldom proffered argument as to the advantages of a free press that it has a major function in keeping the government itself informed as to what the government is doing.

—Walter Cronkite

Not only do we have a right to know, we have a duty to know what our Government is doing in our name. If there's a criticism to be made today, it's that the press isn't doing enough to put the pressure on the government to provide information.

—Walter Cronkite

News misleads. Take the following event (borrowed from Nassim Taleb). A car drives over a bridge, and the bridge collapses. What does the news media focus on? The car. The person in the car. Where he came from. Where he planned to go. How he experienced the crash (if he survived). But that is all irrelevant. What's relevant? The structural stability of the bridge. That's the underlying risk that has been lurking, and could lurk in other bridges. But the car is flashy, it's dramatic, it's a person (non-abstract), and it's news that's cheap to produce. News leads us to walk around with the completely wrong risk map in our heads. So terrorism is over-rated. Chronic stress is under-rated. The collapse of Lehman Brothers is overrated. Fiscal irresponsibility is under-rated. Astronauts are over-rated. Nurses are under-rated.

—Rolf Dobelli

The window to the world can be covered by a newspaper.

—Stanislaw Lec

You name a decade from the 1700s onward, and I can show you an essay on the failings and pernicious effects of the contemporary press.

—James Fallows

That ephemeral sheet,... the newspaper, is the natural enemy of the book, as the whore is of the decent woman.

—Edmond de Goncourt

I sometimes compare press officers to riflemen on the Somme—mowing down wave upon wave of distortion, taking out rank upon rank of supposition, deduction and gossip.

—Bernard Ingham

It is impossible to read the daily press without being diverted from reality. You are full of enthusiasm for the eternal verities— life is worth living, and then out of sinful curiosity you open a newspaper. You are disillusioned and wrecked.

—Patrick Kavanagh

There is a terrific disadvantage in not having the abrasive quality of the press applied to you daily. Even though we never like it, and even though we wish they didn't write it, and even though we disapprove, there isn't any doubt that we could not do the job at all in a free society without a very, very active press.

—John Fitzgerald
Kennedy

The job of the press is to encourage debate, not to supply the public with information.

—Christopher Lasch

The press is no substitute for institutions. It is like the beam of a searchlight that moves restlessly about, bringing one episode and then another out of darkness into vision. Men cannot do the work of the world by this light alone. They cannot govern society by episodes, incidents, and eruptions. It is only when they work by a steady light of their own, that the press, when it is turned upon them, reveals a situation intelligible enough for a popular decision.

—Walter Lippmann

To look at the paper is to raise a seashell to one's ear and to be overwhelmed by the roar of humanity.

--Alain de Botton

People care about what newspapers tell them to care about.

--Delia Parr

There is no such thing, at this date of the world's history, as an independent press. You know it and I know it. There is not one of you who dares to write your honest opinions, and if you did, you know beforehand that it would never appear in print. I am paid weekly for keeping my honest opinions out of the paper I am connected with. Others of you are paid similar salaries for similar things, and any of you who would be so foolish as to write honest opinions would be out on the streets looking for another job. If I allowed my honest opinions to appear in one issue of my paper, before twenty-four hours my occupation would be gone. The business of the journalist is to destroy the truth; to lie outright; to pervert; to vilify; to fawn at the feet of mammon, and to sell the country for his daily bread. You know it and I know it and what folly is this toasting an independent press. We are the tools and vassals of the rich men behind the scenes. We are the jumping jacks, they pull the strings and we dance. Our talents, our possibilities and our lives are all the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes.

—John Swinton

You can never get all the facts from just one newspaper, and unless you have all the facts, you cannot make proper judgements about what is going on.

—Harry S. Truman

The newspaper journalists like to believe the worst; they can sell more papers that way, as one of them told me himself; for even upstanding and respectable people dearly love to read ill of others.

--Margaret Atwood

Journalism anywhere should be based on social justice and impartiality, making contributions to society as well as taking responsibility in society. Whether you are capitalist or socialist or Marxist, journalists should have the same professional integrity.

—Tan Hongkai

The Press will not be free to tell lies. That is not freedom for the people, but a tyranny over their minds and souls. Much humbug is talked on this subject. What is press freedom? In practice it means the right of a few millionaires to corner newspaper shares on the stock exchange and to voice their own opinions and interests, irrespective of the truth or of the national interest.

--Oswald Mosley

The death of a billionaire is worth more to the media than the lives of a billion poor people.

--Mokokoma Mokhonoana

The Press is the living jury of the Nation.

—James Gordon Bennett
(1841)

If the newspapers begin to publish stories about wars, and the people begin to think and talk of war in their daily conversations, they soon find themselves at war. People get that which their minds dwell upon, and this applies to a group or community or a nation of people, the same as to an individual.

--Andrew Carnegie

It's not the news that makes the newspaper, but the newspaper that makes the news.

--Umberto Eco

Newspapers are always the same. You just have to read one every ten years.

--Marty Rubin

In [*The Mysterious Stranger*, Mark Twain] proves to his own grim satisfaction, and to mine as well, that Satan and not God created the planet earth and 'the damned human race.' If you doubt that, read your morning paper. Never mind what paper. Never mind what date.

--Kurt Vonnegut

...to pick up an old-fashioned newspaper, ink barely dry, staining my fingers in that beautiful hue of grey that is messy and decadent at the same time. I lick to get to the Food section and the Arts and Entertainment section, my greedy little fingers wrapped around both the awkward pages of the dying art and my coffee mug as I curl into what I deem relaxation.

—R. B. O'Brien

If paparazzi armed with telephoto lenses have long been the scourge of the rich and famous; civilian drones are fast becoming the new menace to the ordinary man on the street.

--Alex Morritt

The point is that newspapers are not there for spreading news but for covering it up. X happens, you have to report it, but it causes embarrassment for too many people, so in the same edition you add some shock headlines —mother kills four children, savings at risk of going up in smoke, letter from Garibaldi insulting his lieutenant Nino Bixio discovered, etc.—so news drowns in a great sea of information.

--Umberto Eco

The problem with newspapers is that most of them give a summary of things you've read online the day before.

--Danny Mekić

I have always taken great comfort in newspapers. No matter how horrid an event, there is something in seeing it described in black and white that makes it somehow bearable.

--Susan Higginbotham

Having learned to write news, I now distrust newspapers as a source of information, and I am often surprised by historians who take them as primary source for knowing what really happened. I think newspapers should be read for information about how contemporaries construed events, rather than for reliable knowledge of events themselves.

--Robert Darnton

Journalists thrive on not knowing exactly what the future holds. That's part of the excitement. Something interesting, something important, will happen somewhere, as sure as God made sour apples, and a good aggressive newspaper will become part of that something.

--Ben Bradlee

He who only reads newspapers makes his mind a junkyard.

—Debasish Mridha M.D.

Newspapers are a bad habit, the reading equivalent of junk food. What happens to me is that I seize upon an issue in the news—the issue is the moral/philosophical, political/intellectual equivalent of a cheeseburger with everything on it; but for the duration of my interest in it, all my other interests are consumed by it, and whatever appetites and capacities I may have had for detachment and reflection are suddenly subordinate to this cheeseburger in my life! I offer this as self-criticism; but what it means to be 'political' is that you welcome these obsessions with cheeseburgers—at great cost to the rest of your life.

John Irving

I never read the paper myself. Why bother? It's the same old shit day in and day out, dictators beating the ching-chong out of people weaker than they are, men in uniforms beating the ching-chong out of soccer balls or footballs, politicians kissing babies and kissing ass.

--Stephen King

I became a journalist because I did not want to rely on newspapers for information.

--Christopher Hitchens

When reading a book, you are sold what some writer thought. When reading a newspaper, you are sold what someone did, and, what some advertiser made.

--Mokokoma Mokhonoana

Journalism can never be silent: that is its greatest virtue and its greatest fault. It must speak, and speak immediately, while the echoes of wonder, the claims of triumph and the signs of horror are still in the air.

—Henry Anatole
Grunwald

New Journalism: Amidst war protests, hippies, civil rights demonstrations, rock-and-roll festivals, assassinations, feminism, youth power, experimentation with drugs, and sexual revolution, many reporters and writers found that traditional literary categories could not capture the tumultuous changes of the 1960s. Concerned that fiction neglected the people and events of America at that time and that journalism ignored the complexity of the era, reporters and writers forged a new genre by applying the writing techniques and characteristics of the novel and short story to nonfiction, journalistic prose. Journalists like Tom Wolfe, Gay Talese, and Michael Herr joined fiction writers such as Truman Capote, Norman Mailer, and Joan Didion to create a nonfiction form characterized by its use of dialogue, scenic construction, point of view, and personal voice, all traditionally the terrain of fiction. The genre's many critics denied the originality of the form and worried about its threats to the objectivity and accuracy of traditional reportage. For New Journalists, the emerging genre was more responsive to cultural changes and more accurately, more thoroughly, and more interestingly conveyed the issues, events, and people of the 1960s and early 1970s. The *New Journalism* drew greater attention to nonfiction as a creative literary form and encouraged experimentation with genre and style.

—*The Oxford Research
Encyclopedia of
Literature*

A harsh reality of newspaper editing is that the deadlines don't allow for the polish that you expect in books or even magazines.

--Bill Walsh

When journalism is silenced, literature must speak. Because while journalism speaks with facts, literature speaks with truth.

--Seno Gumira Ajidarma

The image of the journalist as wallflower at the orgy has been replaced by the journalist as the life of the party.

--Nora Ephron

It's no mystery why many of us in the media can't get enough of the fabricators Jayson Blair and Stephen Glass, the latter of whom concocted more than a score of bogus feature stories for the *New Republic* (and who wrote for other magazines...in the mid-1990s.) Anyone—journalist, student, academic—who has ever stared at a blank screen, their brains grinding emptiness, and thought, 'How can I fill this hole?' knows that in those desperate moments before a deadline, almost anyone can do almost anything: make stuff up, plagiarize, scribble senseless half-truths.

--David Edelstein

So much for Objective Journalism. Don't bother to look for it here—not under any byline of mine; or anyone else I can think of. With the possible exception of things like box scores, race results, and stock market tabulations, there is no such thing as Objective Journalism. The phrase itself is a pompous contradiction in terms.

--Hunter S. Thompson

All things must be examined, debated, investigated without exception and without regard for anyone's feelings.

--Denis Diderot

In the English language, it all comes down to this: Twenty-six letters, when combined correctly, can create magic. Twenty -six letters form the foundation of a free, informed society.

--John Grogan

My way of writing is rather to think aloud, and follow my own humours, than much to consider who is listening to me; and, if I stop to consider what is proper to be said to this or that person, I shall soon come to doubt whether any part at all is proper.

--Thomas de Quincey

All you have to do [to win a Pulitzer Prize] is spend your life running from one awful place to another, write about every horrible thing you see. The civilized world reads about it, then forgets it, but pats you on the head for doing it and gives you a reward as appreciation for changing nothing.

--David Baldacci

What you read in the newspapers, hear on the radio and see on television, is hardly even the truth as seen by experts; it is the wishful thinking of journalists, seen through filters of prejudice and ignorance.

--Hans Jürgen Eysenck

If you don't hit a newspaper reader between the eyes with your first sentence, there is no need of writing a second one.

--Arthur Brisbane

The foreign correspondent is frequently the only means of getting an important story told, or of drawing the world's attention to disasters in the making or being covered up. Such an important role is risky in more ways than one. It can expose the correspondent to actual physical danger; but there is also the moral danger of indulging in sensationalism and dehumanizing the sufferer. This danger immediately raises the question of the character and attitude of the correspondent, because the same qualities of mind which in the past separated a Conrad from a Livingstone, or a Gainsborough from the anonymous painter of Francis Williams, are still present and active in the world today. Perhaps this difference can best be put in one phrase: the presence or absence of respect for the human person.

--Chinua Achebe

They had holes to fill on every page and jammed in any vaguely newsworthy string of words provided it didn't include expletives, which they were apparently saving for their own use around the office.

--Tom Rachman

Verify? In this day and age? Who cares about verifying anything? It's all about the speed. Who gets there first defines the truth. You know that as well as any man living.

--David Baldacci

In the very first month of *Indian Opinion*, I realized that the sole aim of journalism should be service. The newspaper press is a great power, but just as an unchained torrent of water submerges whole countrysides and devastates crops, even so an uncontrolled pen serves but to destroy. If the control is from without, it proves more poisonous than want of control. It can be profitable only when exercised from within. If this line of reasoning is correct, how many of the journals in the world would stand the test? But who would stop those that are useless? And who should be the judge? The useful and the useless must, like good and evil generally, go on together, and man must make his choice.

--Mahatma Gandhi

What matter is the information, not what you think about it.

--Anna Politkovskaya

Reporters trade in pain. It sells papers. Everyone knows that.

--Jonathan Maberry

Journalists...chronicle our everyday lives. They reveal truths and information that the public deserves to know, and they provide a record for posterity, so that future generations can learn from our mistakes and improve upon our achievements.

--Celeste Ng

The primary purposes of the political pamphlets of the early 1700s were neither to enlighten nor educate the masses, but to incite partisan conversation and spread commensurate ideas . . . Facts were not permitted to fetter the views they espoused, and the restraints of objective journalistic credibility were discarded by pamphleteers bent on promoting subjective slant to an insatiable general public for whom political dissonance was an integral part of social interaction.

--Gavin John Adams

Television and radio are what I call sequential media; they're not simultaneous media. With simultaneous media, you can scan your eye down an electronic or print page and pick among six or seven stories you might like and want to read. With television and radio, you have to wait until the guy's finished talking about the balloon boy, which I don't have the slightest interest in, to find out that all hell's broken loose in Baghdad. Because they've chosen that day to start with the balloon boy. If they want to start with that, it's fine. But it delays the really important story. In a newspaper, you'd have 50 people blown up in Baghdad in the lead position, and the balloon boy would be put somewhere where it's relevance is appropriately signaled, which is minimal.

--Harold Evans

Theorists of journalism have long noted parallels to Heisenberg's uncertainty principle in physics: by reporting on something, one subtly but irrevocably changes it.

--Ben Yagoda

The media are less a window on reality, than a stage on which officials and journalists perform self-scripted, self-serving fictions.

--Thomas Sowell

It sounds cool to say you are going to fight with a pen not a sword but violence with words is still violence.

--Yayoi Ogawa

Riding an omnibus or street railway was a novel experience. For the first time in human history, people other than the very wealthy could, as a part of their daily life, ride in vehicles they were not responsible for driving. Their eyes and their hands were free; they could read on the bus. George Juergens has suggested that the *World's* change to a sensational style and layout was adapted to the needs of commuters: reading on the bus was difficult with the small print and large-sized pages of most papers. So the *World* reduced the size of the page, increased the size of headlines and the use of pictures, and developed the 'lead' paragraph, in which all of the most vital information of a story would be concentrated.

--Michael Schudson

The term propaganda rings melodramatic and exaggerated, but a press that—whether from fear, careerism, or conviction—uncritically recites false government claims and reports them as fact, or treats elected officials with a reverence reserved for royalty, cannot be accurately described as engaged in any other function.

--Glenn Greenwald

We think people want SERIOUS, and they do, but they only want about 3 inches of serious on most things. *USA Today* got it wrong ... they didn't go far enough. I'm getting more and more convinced people want a smattering of everything but just a smattering, and you'd better tell them the nut graf quick. I call it 'drive-though journalism': filling and fast. And don't forget to give them a side of fries or an apple pie along with it.

--Dawn Dressler

If I'd written all the truth I knew for the past ten years, about 600 people—including me—would be rotting in prison cells from Rio to Seattle today. Absolute truth is a very rare and dangerous commodity in the context of professional journalism.

--Hunter S. Thompson

'I'm not involved, not involved,' I repeated. It has been an article of my creed. The human condition being what it was, let them fight, let them love, let them murder, I would not be involved. My fellow journalists called themselves correspondents; I preferred the title of reporter. I wrote what I saw. I took no action—even an opinion is a kind of action.

--Graham Greene

Finally, I applied to one of my roommates, more sagacious than the rest, for advice. Dave, I said. I'm broke and without prospects. I've blown my GI Bill on flying lessons. I can't hide out here in college much longer. What should I do?

Well, he said, at this crucial juncture you need to coldly appraise yourself. 'I've only known you these few short years, but it strikes me you wouldn't be good for anything important; I'd have to say you're lazy, self-absorbed, glib and facetious, always ready to mock the suggestions of others, but never offering anything positive of your own. Intellectually shallow, no tap root anywhere, spiritually neutered, without feeling or compassion, unsteady of focus, lacking the fortitude for the long pull, with no fixed belief in anything.'

I shook his hand and thanked him. The acuity of his analysis made my path clear. My only hope lay in daily journalism.

--Phil Garlington

News is something people don't know they're interested in until they hear about it. The job of a journalist is to take what's important and make it interesting.

--Reuven Frank

If we choose not to broadcast the bad news but choose to broadcast mostly good news? How would this affect our life?

--Tracy Sillato

Taking the journalist's vow of impartiality and objectivity was not unlike joining an order of monks and spending the rest of your life in a glass monastery—removed from the world of human affairs even as it continued to whirl around you on all sides. To be a journalist meant you could never be the person who tossed the brick through the window that started the revolution. You could only watch the man toss the brick, you could try to understand why he had tossed the brick, you could explain to others what significance the brick had in starting the revolution, but you yourself could never toss the brick or even stand in the mob that was urging the man to throw it.

--Paul Auster

The rule of thumb for all news operations is that stories are assigned their importance on the basis of what affects or interests the greatest number of one's readers or viewers. Depending on the nature of the newspaper or broadcast, the balance between what 'affects' and what 'interests' is quite different. The first criteria of a responsible newspaper such as *The New York Times* is going to be that which their readers need to know about their world that day—those developments that in one way or another might affect their health, their pocketbooks, the future of themselves and their children. The first criterion of the tabloid is that which 'interests' its readers—gossip, sex, scandal.

--Walter Cronkite

It's the great flaw of journalism. The more something happens, the less newsworthy it is.

--Nathan Hill

I was driven to go into book writing by the very nature of journalism and blogging. Both are ephemeral. Journalists and bloggers can have humongous egos. But in the end, what they write is really a passing show. I wanted something more lasting—a record of sorts, something people can look back to and relish again like hot, home-brewed coffee.

--Barista Uno

How can people trust social media over newspapers today?

--Joel Landau

It is not the job of the media to try to skew events but to report on events honestly. Anything else is journalistic malpractice.

—James ‘Doc’ Crabtree

In almost all other professions a man must be able to observe carefully and report accurately what he has seen. Those qualifications are unnecessary for journalists, however, since their job is to write sensational stories that sell newspapers.

--Robert Anton Wilson

It is the same in all wars; the soldiers do the fighting, the journalists do the shouting, and no true patriot ever gets near a front-line trench, except on the briefest of propaganda-tours.

--George Orwell

People who are drawn to journalism are usually people who, because of their cynicism or emotional detachment or reserve or whatever, are incapable of being anything but witnesses to events. Something prevents them from becoming involved, committed, and allows them to remain separate.

--Nora Ephron

Reporters go through four stages in a war zone. In the first stage, you're Superman, invincible. In the second, you're aware that things are dangerous and you need to be careful. In the third, you conclude that math and probability are working against you. In the fourth, you know you're going to die because you've played the game too long. I was drifting into stage three.

--Richard Engel

Let's be honest about journalists: We find a lot of ways of being wrong.

—E. J. Dionne, Jr.

It's great being a journalist, because our office is the world.

--Rebecca Aguilar

Then someone cried out, ‘Suicide bomber!’ The crowd panicked. In the ensuing stampede, terrified pilgrims ran in both directions, many colliding in the middle of the bridge. A side railing collapsed under their weight, and scores leaped into the water whether they could swim or not. Hundreds were trampled to death. More than a thousand died. Hundreds of pairs of sandals were scattered around the bridge, left behind when pilgrims made their desperate dives into the river. I was given all of seventy-five seconds to tell the story on the Nightly News.

--Richard Engel

It is in the combination of words and visuals that the magic of understanding often happens.

--Alberto Cairo

It's a journalist's job to be a witness to history. We're not there to worry about ourselves. We're there to try and get as near as we can, in an imperfect world, to the truth and get the truth out.

--Robert Fisk

In the cosmic sense, the same trends that threaten newspapers threaten books. It isn't just a matter of 'business models' and the proliferation of alternative and cheap forms of amusement—computers, mobile, video games and everything on demand, all the time. There is an aversion to long chunks of sentences.

And there is a literary death spiral. The less we read books, the less we read journalism; the less we read journalism, the less we read books. Reading skills atrophy or, worse, were never properly acquired to their fullest.

The dire problem is that long chunks of sentences are still the best way humans have to express complex thoughts, intricate observations, fleeting emotions—the whole range of what we are. I have some confidence that newspaper (and broadcast) journalism can and will be successfully replaced on new platforms with different technologies and tools. I have no such confidence about replacing what lives in books.

—Dick Meyer

News is a story and a newspaper is an assemblage of short fiction: The information we glean during breakfast is an incidental by-product of reading 10 or 20 short stories.

—Victor Nell

Journalism is not like fiction and will never be. In fiction, you can feed people with lies, yet at the end of the reading, people still live the same life—go to work, eat, come back home, and sleep—nothing really changes aside from, at the very least, their perception of the world. But, things are different in journalism. You tell people a barefaced lie, they will believe it, and something is going to happen. People will promptly respond to what they believe is true because it relates to their life, and we take life seriously, don't we?

--Aishah Madadiy

I've always wanted to be a journalist, but what am I going to do? Write articles about which movie star had the fat sucked from her ass and injected into her face? Which professional athlete just confessed to shooting steroids? The last celebrity baby names?...Who cares?

--Melissa Landers

Everything we hate about the media today was present at its creation: its corrupt or craven practitioners, its easy manipulation by the powerful, its capacity for propagating lies, its penchant for amplifying rage. Also present was everything we admire and require: factual information, penetrating analysis, probing investigation, truth spoken to power.

--Brooke Gladstone

Until he (*Time's* founder Henry Luce) arrived, news was crime and politics.

--David Halberstam

I teach my students that you can't be a journalist if you are going to be judgmental. If you have a judgmental nuance as you pose a question, people will close down.

--Robert S. Boynton

Thanks to my solid academic training, today I can write hundreds of words on virtually any topic without possessing a shred of information, which is how I got a good job in journalism.

--Dave Barry

There is much to be said in favor of modern journalism. By giving us the opinions of the uneducated, it keeps us in touch of the ignorance of the community. By carefully chronicling the current events of contemporary life, it shows us of what very little importance such events really are. By invariably discussing the unnecessary, it makes us understand what things are requisite for culture, and what are not.

--Oscar Wilde

In an expansive attempt to establish a foothold among California's intelligentsia and create America's first truly national newspaper, *The New York Times* launched a slimmed-down West Coast edition in October 1962... The result in LA was a sorry stepsister of the great gray *New York Times* for its West Coast readers... Reprocessed news dictated from 3,000 miles away by editors who knew zip about what made Southern California tick.

--Dennis McDougal

Freedom of the press can never be the licence to say anything one desires. Freedom of the press is not the freedom to slander and attack and must never be used to fight other people's wars. It does not mean manipulating a story into speaking your views. One might think it common sense but in the world of journalism a lot of what makes sense is lost to the lure of favouritism, greed and fame. Sadly, in this truth-telling business truth is hard to find.

--Aysha Taryam

The job of a journalist is to amplify the voices of the marginalized. To do that, you have to hear those voices in the first place.

--Allison Kilkenny

Commenting acidly on a writer whom I perhaps too naively admired, my old classics teacher put on his best sneer to ask: 'Wouldn't you say, Hitchens, that his writing was somewhat journalistic?' This lofty schoolmaster employed my name sarcastically, and stressed the last term as if he meant it to sting, and it rankled even more than he had intended. Later on in life, I found that I still used to mutter and improve my long-meditated reply. Émile Zola—a journalist. Charles Dickens—a journalist. Thomas Paine—another journalist. Mark Twain. Rudyard Kipling. George Orwell—a journalist par excellence. Somewhere in my cortex was the idea to which Orwell himself once gave explicit shape: the idea that 'mere' writing of this sort could aspire to become an art, and that the word 'journalist'—like the ironic modern English usage of the word 'hack'—could lose its association with the trivial and the evanescent.

--Christopher Hitchens

Unfortunately, mainstream news has become infotainment, sharing more in common with the entertainment industry than with traditional journalism. Gossip, characterizations and injections of drama are subtly infused with facts, altering the truth in a similar way to how dramatists twist true stories to create greater excitement.

--Lance Morcan

Traditional journalism, where reporters deliver information in a balanced and unbiased fashion, is rapidly fading into obscurity. This is especially evident on television where high profile reporters become bigger than the story, delivering news with large dollops of personality and wit—almost as if they are actors.

--Lance Morcan

Subjective storytelling is now almost as common in the news media as it is in feature films, TV dramas, novels or theater shows. Journalists at their worst are self-centered storytellers who either knowingly or unknowingly bend truths into stories that match their personal beliefs or those of their employers.

--Lance Morcan

Journalists justify their treachery in various ways according to their temperaments. The more pompous talk about freedom of speech and 'the public's right to know'; the least talented talk about Art; the seemliest murmur about earning a living.

--Janet Malcolm

In early 1970, Newsweek's editors decided that the new women's liberation movement deserved a cover story. There was one problem, however: there were no women to write the piece.

--Lynn Povich

Journalism justifies its own existence by the great Darwinian principle of the survival of the vulgarist.

--Oscar Wilde

Journalism in reality is not the journalism that we learnt in the university. It is far from it.

--Nilantha Ilangamuwa

I got a call from a cynical young American journalist...You know the sort. He's lived in the Middle East for a little over five minutes so assumes he knows us natives well. I sip at a skinny mocha frappe while he fires off big important questions about 'the political landscape' and 'Islamic thought'. I stare at him blankly.

--Amy Mowafi

I endured from June 2000 to July 2001, an era when newspapers began their prolonged, job-killing slide from indispensable daily reference to indispensable daily relic. The publisher's strategy to stay relevant in the internet age involved more projects for an already-overtaxed, ever-dwindling staff.

—Pete Croatto

A newspaperman was captured by a band of cannibals. 'Unhand me,' he demanded. 'I am in the newspaper business, and demand the immunity of the press.' 'Most interesting,' observed the cannibal chief, who was a graduate of Oxford. 'Are you an editor?' 'No,' said the captive, 'but I'm an assistant editor.' 'Let me be the first to congratulate you on your impending promotion,' said the chief warmly. 'After dinner you'll be an editor-in-chief.'

—Bennett Cerf

Journalism classes teach us that one must extract oneself from the story in order to report without bias, but often we need to be in the story in order to understand, to connect, to help the audience identify or else it has no heart; it could be a robot telling the story, for all anyone cares.

--Cecelia Ahern

It is not commercial success but originality and proof of autonomy which are admired.

--Angela Phillips

Journalists should be watchdogs, not lapdogs.

--Newton Lee

A fair young graduate of the School of Journalism got a job as cub reporter on a Long Island daily. Her first story won the editor's approval, but he pointed out a few minor inaccuracies. 'Remember,' he said, 'it was Joseph Pulitzer, founder of the School of Journalism, who declared that accuracy is to a newspaper what virtue is to a woman.' 'That in itself is not entirely accurate,' said the girl triumphantly. 'A newspaper can always print a retraction!'

—Bennett Cerf

[Elliot] Paul's first literary endeavors were performed for a Boston newspaper, where he was perfectly happy until he discovered one day that the owners were paying more per week for a syndicated feature called 'The Adventures of Peter Rabbit' than they were for his exclusive services. His pride stung, Paul wired the editor—collect—'You are robbing Paul to pay Peter. Demand ten dollar increase.' The editor wired back, 'Your resignation reluctantly accepted.'

—Bennett Cerf

They're called 'facts', and my role is to amplify those, not cheerlead. And I don't care at all what you think of my motives.

--Glenn Greenwald

As an editor, you develop a B.S. meter—an internal warning system that signals caution about journalism that doesn't feel trustworthy. Sometimes it's a quote or incident that's too perfect—a feeling I always had when reading stories by Stephen Glass in the *New Republic*. Sometimes it's too many errors of fact, the overuse of anonymous sources, or signs that a reporter hasn't dealt fairly with people or evidence. And sometimes it's a combination of flaws that produces a ring of falsity, the whiff of a bad egg. There's no journalist who sets off my bullshit alarm like Ron Suskind.

--Jacob Weisberg

Like so many others of my tenure and temperament—stubborn ancients, I suppose—web reporting is anathema to everything I love about newspapering: getting a tip, developing leads, fleshing-out the details, then telling the story. Now it stops with the tip. Just verify (hopefully!) and post it. I didn't write stories anymore; I 'produced content.'

--Chris Rose

News is what someone wants suppressed. Everything else is advertising. The power is to set the agenda. What we print and what we don't print matter a lot.

—Katharine Graham

I became a journalist to come as close as possible to the heart of the world.

—Henry Luce

There can be no higher law in journalism than to tell the truth and to shame the devil.

—Walter Lippmann

Journalism never admits that nothing much is happening.

—Mason Cooley

Journalism is straying into entertainment. The lines between serious news segments, news entertainment, and news comedy are blurring.

—Drew Curtis

Journalism, some huge percentage of it, should be devoted to putting pressure on power, on nonsense, on chicanery of all kinds and if that's going to invite a lawsuit, well, bring it on.

—David Remnick

Journalism is about results. It's about affecting your community or your society in the most progressive way.

—Anas Aremeyaw Anas

Journalism should never be prostituted for selfish ends or for the sake of merely earning a livelihood or, worse still, for amassing money.

—Mahatma Gandhi

In journalism, there has always been a tension between getting it first and getting it right.

—Ellen Goodman

What journalism is really about—it's to monitor power and the centres of power.

—Amira Hass

Journalism has become a sort of competitive screeching: what is trivial but noisy and immediate takes precedence over important matters that develop over time.

—Ted Koppel

Journalism at its best and most effective is education. Apparently people would not learn for themselves.

—Martha Gellhorn

Journalism is nine-tenths being in the right places at the right time.

—Andrew Marr

Government has an obligation not to inhibit the collection and dissemination of news. Im convinced that if reporters should ever lose the right to protect the confidentiality of their sources then serious investigative reporting will simply dry up. The kind of resourceful, probing journalism that first exposed most of the serious scandals, corruption and injustice in our nation's history would simply disappear. And let me tell you, reading about one's failings in the daily papers is one of the privileges of high office in this free country of ours.

--Nelson Rockefeller

The lowest form of popular culture—lack of information, misinformation, disinformation, and a contempt for the truth or the reality of most people's lives—has overrun real journalism. Today, ordinary Americans are being stuffed with garbage.

--Carl Bernstein (1992)

Evidently there are plenty of people in journalism who have neither got what they liked nor quite grown to like what they get. They write pieces they do not much enjoy writing, for papers they totally despise, and the sad process ends by ruining their style and disintegrating their personality, two developments which in a writer cannot be separate, since his personality and style must progress or deteriorate together, like a married couple in a country where death is the only permissible divorce.

--Claud Cockburn

Journalism without a moral position is impossible. Every journalist is a moralist. It's absolutely unavoidable. A journalist is someone who looks at the world and the way it works, someone who takes a close look at things every day and reports what she sees, someone who represents the world, the event, for others. She cannot do her work without judging what she sees.

--Marguerite Duras

A journalist is basically a chronicler, not an interpreter of events. Where else in society do you have the license to eavesdrop on so many different conversations as you have in journalism? Where else can you delve into the life of our times?

--Bill Moyers

THE PRESS MUST BE FREE. It has always been so, and much evil has been corrected by it.—If Government finds itself annoyed by it, let it examine its own conduct, and it will find the cause,—let it amend it, and it will find the remedy.

—Thomas Erskine (1792)

On many a road the only vehicle you may meet, of a Sunday, is the newsman's cart, hurrying from hamlet to hamlet with his huge bundles of gaudily covered Sunday newspapers—undertaking to purvey all that the human mind need know or the human soul crave, to that day's date.

—Frederic Jesup Stimson
(1902)

Newspaper journalists intentionally 'dumb down' their writing to what they perceive, probably correctly, to be the average reading level of their audience—i.e. the American population—aiming for something between third- and eighth-grade levels using various measurements, such as Flesch-Kincaid.... This doesn't mean the writing is designed to be poor; it means it's designed to require little literary equipage to get through, as opposed to stories that use, for example, words like 'equipage' and whose authors were not journalism majors.

—Dave Nagel

In 1972, 46% of college-age Americans read a newspaper every day. Today it's only 21% percent, according to research by the *Roper Center for Public Opinion Research's General Social Survey*.... While many point to new media as the best hope for rekindling interest in news, only 11% of 18- to 24- year-olds list news as a major reason for logging on. The Internet is a great source of news for some, but for most it is a great way of avoiding the news, to be used for e-mail, instant messages, and other personal information.

—David T. Z. Mindich

If information is true, if it can be verified, and if it's really important, the newspaper needs to be willing to take the risk associated with using unidentified sources.

—Bob Woodward

The newspaper should be more than a business enterprise. It should also be the champion and protector of the public interest and defender of the people's rights.

—Theodore Bodenwein

All presidents rail against the press. It goes with the turf.

—Helen Thomas

I read about eight newspapers in a day. When I'm in a town with only one newspaper, I read it eight times.

—Will Rogers

One of the unsung freedoms that go with a free press is the freedom not to read it.

—Ferdinand Mount

I have played to audiences all over the country, cities, towns, and right on the bald prairies, and lots of swell charity affairs in New York, and if you talk about International or political affairs a fashionable New York audience is the dumbest one you can assemble anywhere in the Country. Small town people will make a sucker out of em for reading and keeping up with the news.

—Will Rogers

Give me...a good book, or a good newspaper, and sit me down afore a good fire, and I ask no better.

—Charles Dickens

When I entered politics, I took the only downward turn you could take from journalism.

—Jim Hightower

Reporters and editors have a checklist of safeguards to ensure fair and accurate reporting, including eliminating loaded language, finding proper balance, choosing appropriate photos and being precise with word choice. Sometimes mistakes are made and bias unintentionally slips through, but news organizations strive to seek and report factual, verified information.

—John Lampinen

Some form of bias is inevitable in both those who report the news and those who consume it. Bias is part of a person's DNA. It's learned from mentors and peers. It's developed from life experience.

—Jim Slusher

A hammer made of deadlines is the surest tool for crushing writer's block.

—Ryan Lilly