



Welcome, **Guest**. Please [login](#) or [register](#).
Did you miss your [activation email](#)?

Forever

Login with username, password and session length

News: Just joined myWritersCircle.com? Introduce yourself on the Welcome board:
<http://www.mywriterscircle.com/index.php?board=1.0>



Search

[My Writers Circle](#) > [The Coffee Shop](#) > [The Coffee Shop](#) > [Journalists and Used Car Salesmen](#)

[« previous](#) [next »](#)

Pages: [[1](#)] 2

[PRINT](#)

Author Topic: [Journalists and Used Car Salesmen](#) (Read 269 times)

Writing Skills

Newbie

 Offline
Posts: 44



[Journalists and Used Car Salesmen](#)

« on: June 14, 2015, 06:59:07 AM »

I recently had a discussion with friend who said that journalists have as much credibility as used car salesmen. He said that journalists, like used car salesmen, are skilled at deception. I recently heard a poll that said the same thing. Having taken an internship in a state senators office, there might be some truth in his claim. What do you think?

Logged

Gyppo

Hero Member

 Offline
Posts: 62021



I've been writing ever since I realised I could.



[Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen](#)

« **Reply #1** on: June 14, 2015, 12:09:42 PM »

I think it depends on the individual journalist. Some report the news, the hard facts, others try to create 'the news' to suit a particular agenda.

If Jesus suddenly returned today and cured a cripple the Christian Herald would announce it as a triumph. The Sun would probably headline it as 'Illegal immigrant robs poor man of his incapacity benefit'. Same story, two opposing interpretations.

My Grandfather was a journalist before WW1 and he took great delight in trotting out this rhyme at family gatherings.



*You cannot hope to bribe or twist
thank God, the British Journalist.
But seeing what the man can do
unbribed, there's no occasion to.*

Every story has two sides, but for some that isn't enough.

Logged

My website is currently having a holiday, but will return like the \$6,000,000 man. Bigger, stronger, etc.

In the meantime, why not take pity on a starving author and visit my book sales page at <http://stores.lulu.com/gyppo1>

Written Communications

Guest



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #2 on: June 14, 2015, 10:49:56 PM »

Have you ever read books on journalism? Manufacturing Consent is a good one. It talks about ethnocentrism. Sociology. the belief in the inherent superiority of one's own ethnic group or culture. 2. a tendency to view alien groups or cultures from the perspective of one's own.

Logged

Laura H

Global Moderator

Hero Member



Offline

Posts: 22661



First draft of the full length is done, baby!



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #3 on: June 14, 2015, 10:57:49 PM »

I do know that the tv journalists in my city put their own slant on stories. Knowing the real story, then seeing the news story makes you wonder if you can believe anything on the news.

I tend to trust print journalism more.

Logged

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." — Maya Angelou

"Don't be like the rest of them, darling." — Eudora Welty



Writing Skills

Newbie



Offline



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #4 on: Yesterday at 12:42:59 AM »

Offline

Posts: 44



Putting a slant on a story is basically what ethnocentrism is. From what I've seen, I'm not sure that print journalists are anymore honest than television journalists. I used to watch senators and representatives making laws, and I began to wonder if the print journalists were watching the same thing that I had watched. 🤔

Logged

Laura H

Global Moderator
Hero Member



Offline

Posts: 22661



First draft of the full length is done, baby!



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #5 on: Yesterday at 01:39:14 AM »

So it really is like House of Cards? 🤔

Logged

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." — Maya Angelou

"Don't be like the rest of them, darling." — Eudora Welty



Writing Skills

Newbie



Offline

Posts: 44



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #6 on: Yesterday at 02:04:58 AM »

Quote from: Laura H on Yesterday at 01:39:14 AM

So it really is like House of Cards? 🤔

I haven't heard of House of Cards. What's the plot?

Logged

Laura H

Global Moderator
Hero Member



Offline

Posts: 22661



First draft of the full



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #7 on: Yesterday at 02:07:05 AM »

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Cards_%28U.S._TV_series%29

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." — Maya Angelou

"Don't be like the rest of them, darling." — Eudora Welty

Logged

length is done, baby!



matwilson

Sr. Member



Online

Posts: 469



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #8 on: Yesterday at 03:08:13 AM »

Journalists are overwhelmed by secrecy.

Bill Moyers is still one of the best and this article will give you a good handle about the roadblocks to good reporting.

<http://ahabit.com/race>

Other than good old Bill, David Halberstam was the giant in the field.

Logged

[A good writer is basically a good thinker](#)> What do you think? <---

Writing Skills

Newbie



Offline

Posts: 44



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #9 on: Yesterday at 03:46:33 AM »

Woodward and Bernstein are the exception to the rule. Most newspapers leave little room in their budget for investigative journalism.

Logged

matwilson

Sr. Member



Online

Posts: 469



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #10 on: Yesterday at 06:46:21 PM »

Quote from: Writing Skills on Yesterday at 03:46:33 AM

Woodward and Bernstein are the exception to the rule. Most newspapers leave little room in their budget for investigative journalism.

Bernstein is still good. Thanks for the reminder.

Logged

[A good writer is basically a good thinker](#)> What do you think? <---

Writing Skills

Newbie



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #11 on: Yesterday at 10:48:18 PM »



Offline

Posts: 44



If you're interested in how the new is created, a good book is Manufacturing Consent.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manufacturing_Consent
Read the following part: Editorial bias: five filters.

Logged

Writing Skills

Newbie



Offline

Posts: 44



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #12 on: Yesterday at 11:39:29 PM »

Here is another way of saying what was written in Manufacturing Consent: the technical name for the view of things in which one's own group is the center of everything, and all others are scaled and rated with reference to it. It's called ethnocentrism.

Logged

Gyppo

Hero Member



Offline

Posts: 62021



I've been writing ever since I realised I could.



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #13 on: Today at 12:06:32 AM »

Kipling the poet understood this principle.

<http://www.poetryloverspage.com/poets/kipling/stranger.html>

Logged

My website is currently having a holiday, but will return like the \$6,000,000 man. Bigger, stronger, etc.

In the meantime, why not take pity on a starving author and visit my book sales page at <http://stores.lulu.com/gyppo1>

matwilson

Sr. Member



Online

Posts: 469



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #14 on: Today at 04:12:59 AM »

Generally speaking, people prefer to confirm their own bias than to have to face the truth and that causes all kinds of problems.

For example, leaders who are not able to learn act out of ignorance most of the time, and instead of leading, they pretend they know what they are doing.

Journalists fail to hold them accountable because they are equally ignorant.

A good writer is basically a good thinker> What do you think? <---

Pages: [1] 2

PRINT

« previous next »

Jump to: => The Coffee Shop

go

Discover the Greatest Writing Courses Online....
Self-publishing... Screenplays... Nick Daws... Travel Writing...
Write a Novel... Cure Writer's Block... **And Much, Much More!**



Powered by SMF 1.1.19 | SMF © 2013, Simple Machines



Page created in 0.165 seconds with 15 queries.



Welcome, **Guest**. Please [login](#) or [register](#).
Did you miss your [activation email](#)?

Forever

Login with username, password and session length

News: Tune in to [WritersFM online radio station](#) - another great free service for writers from WCCL!



Search

[My Writers Circle](#) > [The Coffee Shop](#) > [The Coffee Shop](#) > [Journalists and Used Car Salesmen](#)

[« previous](#) [next »](#)

Pages: 1 [2]

PRINT

Author Topic: [Journalists and Used Car Salesmen](#) (Read 398 times)

Writing Skills

Jr. Member



Offline

Posts: 52



Re: [Journalists and Used Car Salesmen](#)

« **Reply #15 on:** June 16, 2015, 05:34:35 AM »

You would be surprised. Journalists are some of the more informed people. Why do they omit facts and circumstances? Easy. Ethnocentrism is judging another culture solely by the values and standards of one's own culture. Ethnocentric individuals (journalists) judge other groups relative to their own ethnic group or culture, especially with concern for language, behavior, customs, and religion.

Logged

I help people get results with written subject matter.
Click on the link for details regarding my website.
www.everythingwrittencommunicationcompany.com

Gyppo

Hero Member



Online

Posts: 62039



Re: [Journalists and Used Car Salesmen](#)

« **Reply #16 on:** June 16, 2015, 06:12:04 AM »

Ethnocentrism (what an ugly word) *is* the natural state of affairs. Every child is born totally self-centred. Caring about others and trying to understand them is learned behaviour. Learning to realise what is good for 'the pack' comes later. Extending your own family 'pack' to include 'outsiders' comes later still, and sometimes never.



I've been writing ever since I realised I could.



Along the way some other 'packs' may well become permanent 'outsiders' to you. Sometimes this could be seen as prejudice, and sometimes it's just plain common sense.

It is perfectly possible to live with or work alongside people with diametrically opposed views, provided neither side tries to impose their views on the other.

If another culture interests us enough we try to learn their ways, to understand *what* makes them tick. What makes them different. Sometimes we find there is very little difference, merely the way they express themselves.

Some times the differences are intractable. I, for example, am a generally peaceful individual, but I understand warrior types and can see the world through their eyes when I write about them. But I *can't* see the world through the eyes of a paedophile, or someone who sees it as perfectly okay to exploit the weaknesses of others.

Gyppo

Logged

My website is currently having a holiday, but will return like the \$6,000,000 man. Bigger, stronger, etc.

In the meantime, why not take pity on a starving author and visit my book sales page at <http://stores.lulu.com/gyppo1>

Annmarie

Global Moderator
Hero Member



Offline

Posts: 3163



Got my kinky boots on.
Watch out!



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #17 on: June 16, 2015, 07:10:42 AM »

I can't say much about what newsrooms are doing now. They shifted dramatically after 9/11, and I haven't worked in daily news since then (thank God). But before that, I worked for a couple of the biggest and most respected newspapers in the US, and I was trained at the best journalism school. I'm not tooting my own horn. I'm just telling you where my experience comes from.

Starting with journalism training in the early 90's -- It was rigorous, to say the least. Like running a marathon. It heavily leaned toward media law and ethics. Our responsibility to the public was drilled into us. At its best, our job was to monitor those in power. That's what good journalism is all about. The craft of reporting, interviewing, sorting facts from smoke, judging when someone is lying, condensing complex issues into stories people understand -- that was part of our training too. Accuracy was god. Deadlines were more godly than god.

I started out in newspapers back when they still meant something. I'm privileged to have experienced a real, classic newsroom with its free spirit and arguments and competitions and teamwork. We had only a couple of daily deadlines, so we had more time to dig around for our stories. Good newsrooms are places where journalists constantly argue about printing or producing what's right. We'd have shouting matches about bias. We were deeply aware of it and on the watch for our own blind spots. Diversity in the newsroom was so important because a melting pot group will catch biases quicker. All that arguing was healthy, and it was good for the public to have conscientious people sifting through all the noise for them.

That probably sounds idealistic. But that's the way it was at the prominent newspapers where the journalists were expected to deliver excellence, regularly won Pulitzers etc. Of course lots of media outlets worked with far lower standards. We hated local TV news and called them ambulance chasers, right up there with lawyers.

Since web news took off, speed has trumped everything else. Everyone thinks getting the information out there is more important than whether it's true or important or even damaging. Few of my old colleagues work in newsrooms since there was so much downsizing. But it's generally universal that reporters now have many deadlines a day. They don't have time to report anymore, or even to think.

There's still good journalism going on out there (much of it web-based), but far less than there used to be. I think it's much harder to be a good journalist, partly because governments use the media as their personal PR and spin organizations. Because of corporate ties and other issues, the media can't and won't push back. It's disgraceful and sad. I'm glad I'm out of it.

« Last Edit: June 16, 2015, 07:12:56 AM by Annmarie »

 Logged

Work hard. Believe. Take a chance.

matwilson

Sr. Member



 Online

Posts: 472



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #18 on: June 16, 2015, 12:49:48 PM »

It is no longer possible to monitor those in power because they are insulated by a degree of secrecy that is as impenetrable as the Mafia oath was in the 1960's.

Consequently, if you are a great journalist who manages to penetrate the secrecy you are as good as dead.

I even think that David Halberstam was murdered because he was prone to compare Vietnam and Iraq and the secret powers cannot handle the truth.

It is sad, but the only place you will find the truth these days is on obscure websites like the ones I promote.

This thread is very good in that regard as well. We're having a real discussion that the mainstream avoids like the plague, except to ridicule people like myself because we do not play by their rules.

The fact is, in this day and age, the truth is impossible to disguise, even if the mainstream rejects it. Intelligent people get it.

Postscript: Do not for a minute think that Watergate exposed the truth. The fact is, Watergate was a successful coverup and Nixon emerged from the crisis more powerful than ever. He in fact controlled Ronald Reagan the way that Henry Kissinger currently controls Obama.

Most people will not get it, but that is in fact the simple, "ethnocentric" truth.

A good writer is basically a good thinker> What do you think? <---

matwilson

Sr. Member



Online

Posts: 472



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #19 on: June 16, 2015, 12:55:01 PM »

Quote from: Gyppo on June 14, 2015, 12:09:42 PM

I think it depends on the individual journalist. Some report the news, the hard facts, others try to create 'the news' to suit a particular agenda.

If Jesus suddenly returned today and cured a cripple the Christian Herald would announce it as a triumph. The Sun would probably headline it as 'Illegal immigrant robs poor man of his incapacity benefit'. Same story, two opposing interpretations.

My Grandfather was a journalist before WW1 and he took great delight in trotting out this rhyme at family gatherings.

*You cannot hope to bribe or twist
thank God, the British Journalist.
But seeing what the man can do
unbribed, there's no occasion to.*

Every story has two sides, but for some that isn't enough.

Right Gyppo, there are 2 sides to every story. The simple truth and the spin.

Of course, the simple truth is not so simple these days because lawyers are like the blind men and the elephant and there are no longer any stories. All we have is facts that are taken out of context to promote a specific agenda and in a world of all spin, the simple truth is largely insignificant, and that's the real danger we face.

A good writer is basically a good thinker> What do you think? <---

Writing Skills

Jr. Member



Offline

Posts: 52



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #20 on: June 17, 2015, 05:32:47 AM »

Quote from: Annmarie on June 16, 2015, 07:10:42 AM

I can't say much about what newsrooms are doing now. They shifted dramatically after 9/11, and I haven't worked in daily news since then (thank God). But before that, I worked for a couple of the biggest and most respected newspapers in the US, and I was trained at the best journalism school. I'm not tooting my own horn. I'm just telling you where my experience comes from.

Starting with journalism training in the early 90's -- It was rigorous, to say the least. Like running a marathon. It heavily leaned toward media law and ethics. Our responsibility to the public was drilled into us. At its best, our job was to monitor those in power. That's what good journalism is all about. The craft of reporting, interviewing, sorting facts from smoke, judging when someone is lying, condensing complex issues into stories people understand -- that was part of our training too. Accuracy was god. Deadlines were more godly than god.

I started out in newspapers back when they still meant something. I'm privileged to have experienced a real, classic newsroom with its free spirit and arguments and competitions and teamwork. We had only a couple of daily deadlines, so we had more time to dig around for our stories. Good newsrooms are places where journalists constantly argue about printing or producing what's right. We'd have shouting matches about bias. We were deeply aware of it and on the watch for our own blind spots. Diversity in the newsroom was so important because a melting pot group will catch biases quicker. All that arguing was healthy, and it was good for the public to have conscientious people sifting through all the noise for them.

That probably sounds idealistic. But that's the way it was at the prominent newspapers where the journalists were expected to deliver excellence, regularly won Pulitzers etc. Of course lots of media outlets worked with far lower standards. We hated local TV news and called them ambulance chasers, right up there with lawyers.

Since web news took off, speed has trumped everything else. Everyone thinks getting the information out there is more important than whether it's true or important or even damaging. Few of my old colleagues work in newsrooms since there was so much downsizing. But it's generally universal that reporters now have many deadlines a day. They don't have time to report anymore, or even to think.

There's still good journalism going on out there (much of it web-based), but far less than there used to be. I think it's much harder to be a good journalist, partly because governments use the media as their personal PR and spin organizations. Because of corporate ties and other issues, the media can't and won't push back. It's disgraceful and sad. I'm glad I'm out of it.

Well written

 Logged

I help people get results with written subject matter.
Click on the link for details regarding my website.
www.everythingwrittencommunicationcompany.com

matwilson

Sr. Member



 Online

Posts: 472



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« **Reply #21 on: Yesterday** at 03:01:19 AM »

There is really no accountability in the media.

When Dan Rather tried to expose Bush for evading National Guard Service, HIS career was destroyed.

Pretty soon, the media may very well pick the next President and don't be surprised if it's Jeb Bush.

If the public had any real say, both Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush would not stand a chance but the media wants another horse race and they may very well get it.

 Logged

A good writer is basically a good thinker> What do you think? <---

Writing Skills

Jr. Member



Offline

Posts: 52



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #22 on: Yesterday at 05:23:41 AM »

Dan Rather made the mistake of listening too much to his fraudulent sources. The first rule of journalism is know your sources and balance their message with the messages of other sources. The goal is to build credibility through balanced reporting.

Logged

I help people get results with written subject matter.

Click on the link for details regarding my website.

www.everythingwrittencommunicationcompany.com

Jo Bannister

Hero Member



Offline

Posts: 975



Feel the fear - and do it anyway



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #23 on: Yesterday at 07:50:10 AM »

I worked in journalism for twenty years. My provincial colleagues were as disgusted as anyone about some of the things done by the national media. They, and I, worked hard and took risks and stood up against vested interests to give the best, most balanced view of events we could - and these were events in Northern Ireland in the '70s and '80s, when taking a balanced view could get you killed. I never knew one of my team to tell a lie in print, to give a deliberate slant to a story, or to treat different people differently depending on who they were.

Maybe there are lots of decent used-car salesmen out there as well. But I know there are - or at least, thirty years ago there were - lots of thoroughly decent, honest, honourable journalists.

Perhaps the question you should be asking yourself is why, when the common consensus is that "You can't trust the papers", most people buy those newspapers with the biggest question-marks over their reputations? Because that is real hypocrisy: to throw stones at journalists in public and read their most salacious outpourings in private. Perhaps we should take the view that a country gets the Press, as well as the government, that it deserves. If more members of the public supported better newspapers, the result would be better, more reliable journalism.

Logged

JB in Northern Ireland

matwilson

Sr. Member



Online

Posts: 472



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« Reply #24 on: Yesterday at 08:01:20 PM »

I have the eye of a trained, investigative journalist and I consider this to be my best piece.

Link Removed

Regardless, I discovered that Boston Marathon Hero, Jeff Bauman probably lost his legs in Benghazi.

Now isn't that the most bizarre thing anybody can possibly imagine?

Don't ask me why, it's downright treacherous -the failed plot to get Romney elected.

Any thoughts about that?

All this secrecy reminds me of the old, Manhattan project -such unbelievable secrecy!!!

Today, we can find anything because we have the Internet. You just have to do a great deal of research to find it and tolerate violent, Schopenhauerian ridicule, because...

"All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident".

« Last Edit: **Today** at 12:52:23 PM by matwilson »

 Logged

[A good writer is basically a good thinker](#)> [What do you think?](#) <---

matwilson

Sr. Member



 Online

Posts: 472



Re: Journalists and Used Car Salesmen

« **Reply #25 on: Today** at 12:59:30 PM »

Quote from: Writing Skills on Yesterday at 05:23:41 AM

Dan Rather made the mistake of listening too much to his fraudulent sources. The first rule of journalism is know your sources and balance their message with the messages of other sources. The goal is to build credibility through balanced reporting.

The Bushes love to ambush Dan Rather to divert attention away from their crimes. Bush Sr. did it to cover up Iran Contra and Bush Jr. did it to divert attention away from the fact that he was a National Guard deserter. Bush Jr. hates to talk about the truth, but he loves to talk about documents, because, in his words, "I think what needs to happen is people need to take a look at the documents, how they were created, and let the truth come out." So that's what we did. We took a close look at the documents and we discovered that his Texas Air National Guard file show extreme signs of massive tampering. A close examination indicates that the altered parts disguise the fact that Bush did not receive an honourable discharge from the National Guard. The extensive tampering of Bush's discharge form covers up the embarrassing truth, and suffice it to say that if Bush received an honourable discharge for failing to show up, the need to tamper with his records would not exist.

Dan Rather was just a scapegoat of trash journalism.

 Logged

[A good writer is basically a good thinker](#)> [What do you think?](#) <---

Jump to:

=> The Coffee Shop

go

Discover the **Greatest Writing Courses Online....**
Self-publishing... Screenplays... Nick Daws... Travel Writing...
Write a Novel... Cure Writer's Block... **And Much, Much More!**



Powered by SMF 1.1.19 | SMF © 2013, Simple Machines



Page created in 0.199 seconds with 16 queries.