



Can We Trust the Media?



WARNING

FAKE NEWS!

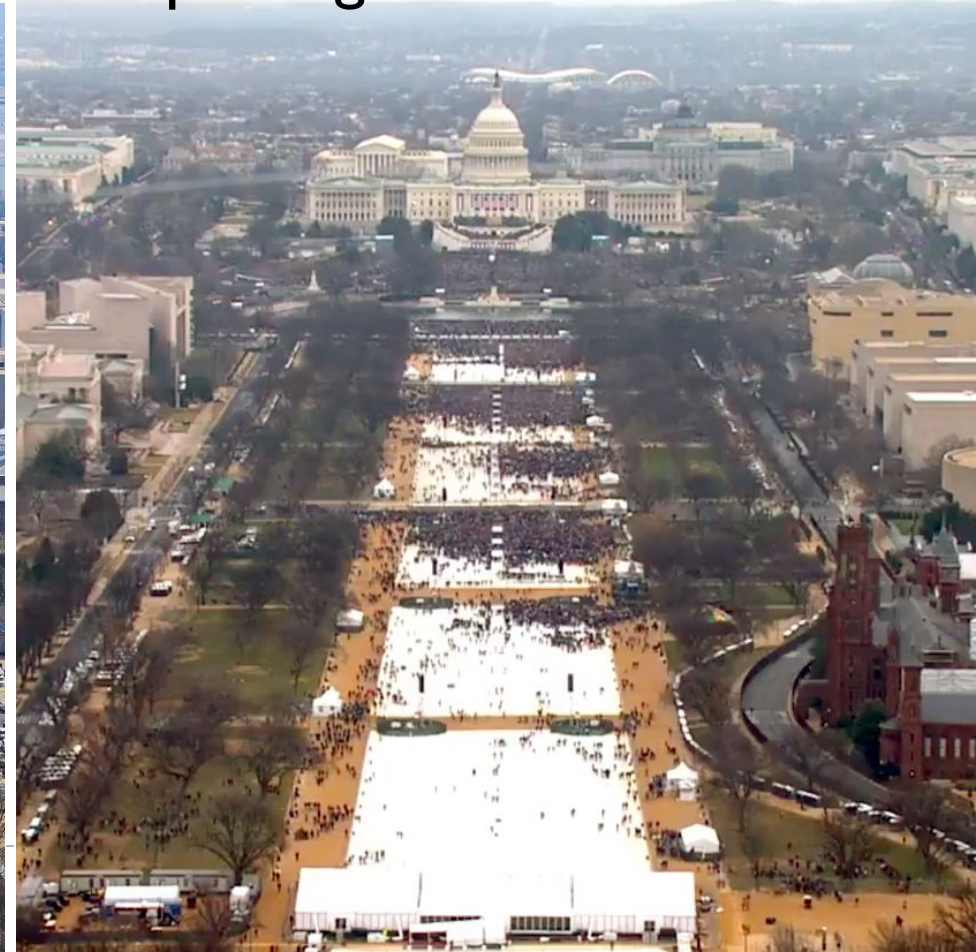


Who drew a larger crowd?

Obama Inaugural 2009



Trump Inaugural 2017



How do we form our opinions?

1. President Donald J. Trump



2. The White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer

3. Footage of the National Mall on Inauguration Day



Q-Based on these 3 pieces of information what is your opinion? Who do you believe?

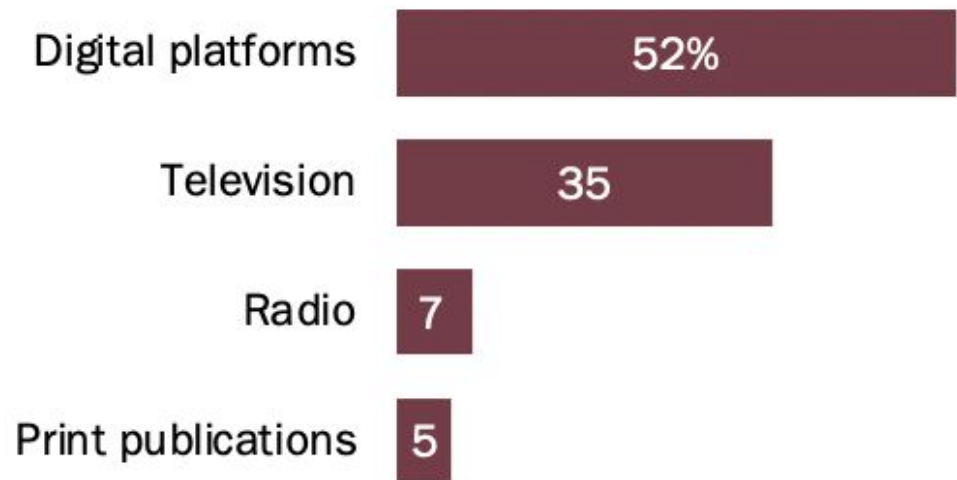
Questions for Discussion



- *Where do you get your news from?*
- *If you get your news from social media, where do you get it specifically?*
- *Why do you go there?*
- *What other options do you have?*
- *Do you trust that coverage (of news stories) that you are getting is fair, accurate, and unbiased?*
- *Do you think we live more in an “information age” or a “disinformation age”?*

Roughly half of Americans prefer to get news on a digital platform; about a third prefer TV

% of U.S. adults who prefer ____ for getting news



Note: Digital platforms includes respondents who said they prefer news websites or apps, social media, search, or podcasts.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER


When getting the news, are you more concerned with convenience or reliability?

This way


That way

Mediaocracy (5:25)





Are you guilty of incestuous
amplification?

- 
- Incestuous amplification: selecting news sources to reinforce what we already believe (aka-confirmation bias)

How do you interpret the meaning of the following statement:

WE ALL LIVE IN AN ECHO CHAMBER



Activity: Evaluating the “Big 3” media outlets



Activity Flow

- Go to the websites for the big three media outlets and examine their homepages, focusing on the headlines. Use the previous slide's linked images.
- Part I: Fill out the chart in the handout.
- Part II: Choose a one topic that all 3 websites address (politics or public policy) and complete the following:
 - *What "facts" were included in all 3 sources?*
 - *Was there one source that contained facts that the other sources did not have? Why might that be?*
 - *Was there a difference in language or tone between the sources?*

Big 3 news sources

- <http://www.cnn.com>
- <http://www.foxnews.com>
- <http://www.msnbc.com>

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

How to Spot **Fake** **News...**



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.