

# Why America Needs Journalists

By: The Elevate Magazine Staff

The number of students choosing to major in journalism is booming. Take Northwestern's Graduate School of Journalism for example, enrollment has risen about 24 percent this year. Why? Because real journalism isn't boring, old-fashioned, or fading. Journalism is the sports broadcaster you see on ESPN, the undercover reporter in war-torn countries, the photographer traveling the world to capture true human experiences. Since the first newspaper printed in America, in 1690, journalism has exposed injustices and kept people informed around the globe. It has changed our world for the better, leaning on its backbone - the journalist. In 2018, journalists work with a wide variety of media—podcasts, newspapers, magazines, social media features, and news shows.

Some people may think that print is dead and that journalism is a dying art, yet that couldn't be further from the truth. With so many outlets and avenues in the digital age, the 24 hour news cycle can be overwhelming. It's hard to know who to trust, what to believe, what really is "fake news."

Modern day journalism too often focuses on the monetary model: resorting to sensational or biased news to get clicks, likes, and views.

America needs good journalists and developed, well-researched stories now more than ever. The focus on outrageous headlines and political slander needs to stop.

Americans need to be informed on divisive political issues, so we can make the right choice when it's election time. America needs journalism to combat the bigotry, prejudice, and social injustices that continue to plague our country, as well as to combat the misleading and fake stories seen across all forms of media. Journalists advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves in our communities, our country, and worldwide.

Journalists exposed sexual misconduct by influential men from Harvey Weinstein to Roy Moore. Journalists provided platforms for victims to speak out in the the #MeToo movement and expose the predators through investigative journalism. The movement was

driven by social media, with over 32,000 replies to the original tweet in only 24 hours. Countless journalists—Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, Rowan Farrow, Oliver Darcy, among others—investigated and worked to prove and report the stories of the victims. The movement was plastered across the covers of many magazines. Time's cover story was titled "The Silence Breakers". Journalists interviewed dozens of men and women over the course of six weeks, and the magazine named those interviewed in the piece as its Person of the Year for 2017. Journalists' dedication to dive into the sexual assault allegations against powerful people ultimately led to an environment where survivors were encouraged to share their stories.

Investigative journalism revealed the reality of the immigration crisis. Journalists published content exposing the harsh conditions and personal stories of immigrants in desert detention camps, especially children separated from their parents, to the public. Their determination has inspired activism and change across America.

Often times, commentators or analysts who call themselves journalists fail the public. Good Journalists operate under the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics. The foundational principles of the code of ethics are seeking truth and reporting it, minimizing harm, acting independently, and being accountable and transparent. Real journalists cover important issues while respecting the people involved and searching for truth. America needs more journalists who uphold these principals.

Henry Luce, a reporter who launched Time, Life, Fortune, and Sports Illustrated magazines, remarked, "I became a journalist to come as close as possible to the heart of the world." No matter what the issue, big changes happen when journalists come together and work hard.

Regis Jesuit has a team of journalists working diligently to release publications to keep the student body informed. RJ Media publishes Elevate Magazine (both online and print), weekly episodes of RJTV, Raider Sports Network broadcasts, podcasts, and RJ Radio. We cover important events at Regis Jesuit, keep you updated on your Raider sports teams, and dive into students' personal stories. We are not perfect. We miss things. Sometimes we make mistakes, but we promise to strive for good journalism.

We always do our best, and we need your help. If you are interested in helping out with RJ Media and exploring an interest in journalism, there are two ways to get involved. You can sign up to take one of the journalism classes and explore media, ethics, and publication. As an alternative, you can join the club and jump right in. We meet Mondays at Academic Support. You can find us on Instagram @rj\_media, Snapchat @raidersportsnet, and Twitter @RJ\_Media. Reach out to the staff members, or email us at rjmedia@regisjesuit.com.

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

*The First Amendment*

OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, IDEAS?

COME AND SEE US IN THE RJ MEDIA LAB! OR EMAIL

RJMEDIA@REGISJESUIT.COM