

The Role of Journalism

The most important thing to understand about journalism is that its entire purpose is to serve the citizens—*all* the citizens—of a democratic society. When you keep that in mind, you can better understand some of the more specific roles journalism plays. In the book "The Elements of Journalism," authors Bill Kovatch and Tom Rosenstiel identify ten foundational elements of journalism. Becoming familiar with some of these elements is helpful in understanding what journalism's role in society is.

Kovatch and Rosenstiel argue that a "journalist's first obligation is to the truth." Why? Because when citizens have reliable access to information that they can trust is truthful (not outright lies or propaganda), they can make better decisions and better govern themselves. For example, citizens should be able to rely on journalists to provide them with truthful information about candidates so they can decide who to vote for. The same goes for all aspects of our lives in which we make decisions, whether it's when we're buying a car, choosing a school, or even just deciding on a movie to see.

Other important roles journalism fulfills are to, as Kovatch and Rosenstiel put it, "serve as an independent monitor of power" and "offer a voice to the voiceless." Powerful people often try to get away with bad things. If journalists weren't there to expose them, those powerful people would just get away with it. On the other hand, most of the people in this world *aren't* powerful, but their perspectives and stories are still important. Journalists can be the ones to find those powerless people and give them a voice.

Finally, journalism provides what Kovatch and Rosenstiel call "a public forum for criticism and comment." This is an essential thing for a democratic society to have. It gives every citizen a voice. Journalism provides many avenues for citizens to speak up, from printing letters to the editor in the newspaper to displaying comments from readers after an online article.

Key Sentences :

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Keywords:

Journalism / purpose (هدف) / serve (يخدم) / citizens (سكان) / democratic (ديمقراطي) / society (مجتمع) / identify (يحدد) / foundational (التأسيسية) / elements (عناصر) / role (دور) / argue (يناقش) / obligation (واجب/لازم) / trust (يثق) / reliable (جدير بالثقة) / truthful (صادق) / lies (كذب) / propaganda (دعاية) / decisions (قرارات) / govern (يحكم) / themselves (انفسهم) / able (قادر) / to rely (يعتمد) / candidates (مترشحين) / vote (يصوت) / aspects (مظاهر) / fulfills (تمارس) / independent (مستقل) / monitor (جهاز) / power (قوى) / offer (يقدم) / voice (صوت) / voiceless (بدون صوت) / Powerful people (اشخاص ذوي السلطة) ≠ powerless people (اشخاص ضعفاء) / expose (يعرض) / perspectives (وجهة نظر) / stories (قصص) / give them a voice (يقدم لهم صوت) / provides (يزود) / public forum (المنتدى العام) / public (عام) / criticism (النقد) / comment / essential (هام) / avenues (طرق) / speak up (التكلم) / printing letters (الرسائل المطبوعة) / the editor (رئيس التحرير) / newspaper/ displaying (العرض) / readers / online article (مقال على الانترنت).

The Elements of Journalism is a book written by Bill Kovatch and Tom Rosenstiel.

في هذا الكتاب يعرض لنا الكاتبين اهمية دور و مبادئ الصحافة.

Synonyms: Offer = give = provide. / Purpose = role. / Essential = important.

Questions:

1- Why Journalism is so important?

2- According to you, how does journalism give a voice to the voiceless people?