



Quotes on Journalism

"Newspapers are unable, seemingly to discriminate between a bicycle accident and the collapse of civilization." -- George Bernard Shaw

"~~Everyone~~Everybody needs an editor."--Hank Glamann

"The duty of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable" -adage

"Free speech is about as good a cause as the world has ever known. But, like the poor, it is always with us and gets shoved aside in favor of things which seem at some given moment more vital. . . . Everybody favors free speech in the slack moments when no axes are being ground." - Heywood Broun

"Read your own compositions, and when you meet with a passage which you think is particularly fine, strike it out." --Samuel Johnson

"I'm all in favor of keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of fools. Let's start with typewriters." Frank Lloyd Wright

"All successful newspapers are ceaselessly querulous and bellicose. They never defend anyone or anything if they can help it; if the job is forced upon them, they tackle it by denouncing someone or something else. " -H.L. Mencken

"I've thought a couple of times in the aftermath of Diana or O.J. that maybe now we're going to be more cautious and we are in for a change, and then boom! -- there's another meltdown." - Rem Rieder

"I have only made this [letter] longer because I have not had the time to make it shorter."--Blaise Pascal

"I am not an editor of a newspaper and shall always try to do right and be good so that God will not make me one." -Mark Twain

"Why should freedom of speech and freedom of press be allowed? Why should a government which is doing what it believes to be right allow itself to be criticized? It would not allow opposition by lethal weapons. Ideas are much more fatal things than guns. Why should any man be allowed to buy a printing press and disseminate pernicious opinions calculated to embarrass the government?" -- V.I. Lenin

"I frequently, proudly declare myself copy editor-dependent"--Sandra Mims Rowe

"Clarity first, last, and always." — Anatole France

"A deadline is negative inspiration. Still, it's better than no inspiration at all." --Rita Mae Brown

"I sometimes think that writing is like driving sheep down a road. If there is any gate to the left or right, the readers will most certainly go into it." — C. S. Lewis

"History will be kind to me for I intend to write it." --Winston Churchill

"Some editors are failed writers but so are most writers." T.S. Eliot

"It is not death or torture or imprisonment that threatens us as American journalists, it is the trivialization of our industry." -- Ted Koppel

"That which is written without effort is generally read without pleasure."
Samuel Johnson

"USA Today has come out with a new survey - apparently, three out of every four people make up 75% of the population." --David Letterman

"Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell." — William Strunk Jr.

"On behalf of the newspaper industry (new, cost-cutting motto: ``All the News That'') I wish to announce some changes we're making to serve you better. When I say ``serve you better," I mean ``increase our profits." We newspapers are very big on profits these days. We're a business, just like any other business, except that we employ English majors."--Dave Barry

"No newspaper can be great without a great copy desk." --Mike Waller

"Journalism is merely history's first draft." -- Geoffrey C. Ward

"The public have an insatiable curiosity to know everything. Except what is worth knowing. Journalism, conscious of this, and having tradesman-like habits, supplies their demands." --Oscar Wilde

"The freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments." -George Mason

"The liberty of the press is essential to the security of the state" -John Adams

"Facing the press is more difficult than bathing a leper." --Mother Teresa

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

"A journalist is a reporter out of a job." --Mark Twain

"Three hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets." -Napoleon Bonaparte

"Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one." -A. J. Liebling

"The way I had it is all gone now. The bars are gone, the drinkers, gone. There remain the smartest, healthiest newspeople in the history of the business. And they are so boring that they kill the business right in front of you. -- Jimmy Breslin

"When a dog bites a man that is not news. But when a man bites a dog, that is news." -Charles A. Dana

"The press is the enemy." --Richard Nixon

"No news is good news, except when you're doing Page One."--Pam Robinson

"The nerds have taken over the newsrooms." -Phillip Knightley

"I believe in equality for everyone, except reporters and photographers." -- Gandhi

"Trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading newspapers is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock." --Ben Hecht

"All of us learn to write in the second grade. Most of us go on to greater things." --Bobby Knight

"It sometimes takes a while for executives to figure out that the reporters they think of as little bugs to be squashed or spun can be more powerful than they are."--Jonathan Alter

"The media only report stupid or careless answers, not stupid or unfair questions."--Colin Powell

"Every good journalist is aware that his trade may one day go the way of phrenology--and, what's more, the population will hardly protest the extinction." --David Remnick

"The waste basket is a writer's best friend."--Isaac Bashevis Singer

"It is of interest to note that while some dolphins are reported to have learned English -- up to fifty words used in correct context -- no human being has been reported to have learned dolphinese."--Carl Sagan

"Journalism largely consists in saying "Lord Jones is dead" to people who never knew Lord Jones was alive."--G.K. Chesterton

"The credibility of the work depends on copy editors. I would argue with the copy desk, but I would thank them more. The best news organization is the one with the best, strongest copy desk." --Bill Kovach

"Every journalist has a novel inside, which is an excellent place for it." -- Russell Lynes

"Journalism - a profession whose business it is to explain to others what it personally does not understand. " --Lord Northcliffe

"There's really no mystery to how to improve as copy editors. First, set your standard at the highest level -- perfection. Nothing short of that will ever be enough. Then work your butt off every day to try to achieve the impossible. It doesn't matter that you can't achieve it; it only matters that you try."--Mike Waller

"Rock journalism is people who can't write interviewing people who can't talk for people who can't read." -- Frank Zappa

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