

Media Analysis

Journalism (Op-Ed)

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Last Call For The Express Wagon to Social Media

My friends have always told me that I spend way too much time on my phone. I'm the first to upload pictures to Instagram and the last to be seen online. You'll know my next move before the next person. But you know what? I considered myself a social media-monkey. I love the idea of social media and how efficient it is to find out what's going on in the world around me. I even get excited about the next app update and what new posts I can find on the discovery section of Snapchat.

When a story breaks out, the first place I check is Twitter. I can find anything and everything with just a few clicks and swipes. I am interested to see what everyone else has to say about the next celebrity scandal or massive outbreak going on in another state or country. It's the perfect method of communication for me. I can voice my opinion freely and keep up with fast-growing news on current events. For a busybody like myself; I'd say it's rather efficient.



Image: TechWyse

I am always telling my friends to watch the news. If you hate watching the news, at least check online for breaking stories. Know what's happening outside before you step out the door. I use Uber rather frequently to get around. It's more convenient than taking the bus or train. But one day, I decided to check the trending news tweets on Twitter and to my discovery, I found that an Uber driver made time to murder six people during his daily round of pickups. He says the app turned him into ["Satan's Puppet"](#). He actually shot 8 people, two of them survived, thankfully. He finally pleaded guilty this month. An unfortunate event like this is what makes me so eager to stay up to date on current events. Tragic stories or extraordinary miracles that are making headlines are what we, people of society need to be aware of. Whether it's reading an article published online or in the paper or hearing about it through mutuals, the goal is to stay informed.

The way we get information today is definitely not the same as is used to be. Jim Macnamara can tell you himself. His book, *The 21st Century Media (R)evolution*, goes into great detail explaining the effect social media has had on many forms of communication. Social media has become the primary source of news and information. Thanks to social platforms like Twitter and Instagram, news can travel fast with just the use of a few hashtags and post sharing. Followers can easily share stories all over the internet. Before social media, back in the day, news had to be submitted to the local newspaper. I don't know about you, but I prefer clicking around to get my source of information then waiting for a full story to become public in the paper. It's now easy for news to be shared as information becomes available; grab the next breaking story, write about it, add an eye-catching image, and hit post. Grab a snack, sit back, and wait for opinions and likes to flood your notification inbox.

Traditionally, journalism was all about looking for the next breaking story, gathering the facts, and writing up articles to be featured in the paper. Now, there is so much more involved. Take photojournalism for example. Sure, reading about an event that took place is all fine and dandy, but you don't really "feel" the message. Add a picture to your story, and you've got tears falling and hearts pounding. When I read articles about tragic war stories or a murder story in a small town, to me it's the same as any other related piece of news out there. I want to be engulfed into the story as if I were there myself. Pictures add so much more than content on a page; it brings readers closer to understanding the message being portrayed. The Atlantic knows the saying, ["A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words"](#). The key is to find the right picture and let it tell the story for you; with the rightful sourcing, of course.

Like most things in life, there are positive and negative attributes. Journalism has come a long way from newspaper articles to going digital, blog postings, and follower counts. Social media hasn't stolen the limelight, it just provided us with better efficiency and a place to voice our thoughts. Journalism is evolving quickly. Information is still being provided to us, and there is always news waiting to be broken. To my traditional folks out there, just take a look at the bright side and see [The Positivity in Social Media](#).

Business Journalist and Content Marketer, David Amerland once said, "Social media is addictive precisely because it gives us something which the real world lacks: it gives us immediacy, direction, a sense of clarity and value as an individual".

He took the words right out of my mouth, of course, he was able to say it in just a few words.

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