

CHAPTER ONE



- News is a construct of journalism.
- News relies on the experiences of the audiences to be effective.
- The more open a society is, the better the news process works.



- The separation of events into “news” and “not news” categories is a function of what we call news values.



- News values are the concepts that help us decide what a mass media audience is or should be interested in.



- Events that change people's lives are classified as news.



- Factors determining news values: impact, timeliness, prominence, proximity, conflict, currency, and bizarre or unusual



Timeliness is a value common to almost all news stories, and refers to the recent nature of the event.



- Issues that have current interest often have news value.



- News tells a society about itself, and the contributions news makes to society can be classified into three categories: information, entertainment, and persuasion.



The persuasion function of the news is the most subtle of three functions but its importance is enormous.



- Sensationalism or infotainment defines the lurid aspects of news emphasized merely because of their appeal to people and for building an audience for the news program or publication.



- Another area of society in which news plays an important role is the economic arena.



-Much of the daily journalism is devoted to the coverage of politics and the political arena.



- One of the main jobs of news and the news media in the realm of politics is to serve as a watchdog on government and officials.



- Newspapers have sports sections that are often larger than the news sections.



- Critics point to the fact with sports the news media is part of a system that encourages spectatorship rather than participation in sports and, consequently, gives it the wrong priority within our society.



- Journalists must maintain the standards of their profession as well as the customs and conventions of the journalistic culture.



- Journalists have the responsibility of maintaining the economic health of their news organizations.



- Journalists are charged with fostering and promoting the idea of an open society in which information flows freely.

