

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 16.1: The Evolving News Media

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

 **Before you read**

Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.

Learning Target: explain how increased media choices, consumer-driven media, and new technologies have impacted the level of citizens' political knowledge.

AP® Key Concepts

news media
social media
agenda setting
mass media

wire service
investigative journalism
broadcast media

 **While you read**

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

Types of media	Impact on citizens	Impact on government

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 16.1: The Evolving News Media

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 **After you read**

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

1. Those who use the term "fake news" apply it to all of the following EXCEPT:
 - A. media that is intentionally deceptive.
 - B. reporting that is balanced and fact-based.
 - C. stories that are highly partisan.
 - D. news that is intentionally untrue or unverified.

2. _____ is a broad term that includes newspapers, magazines, radio, television, internet sources, blogs, and social media postings that cover important events.
 - A. Broadcast media
 - B. Social media
 - C. News media
 - D. Mass media

3. Social media can best be defined as:
 - A. forms of electronic communication that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.
 - B. outlets, including radio and television, for news and other content that bring stories directly into people's homes.
 - C. are sources of information designed to reach a wide audience, including newspapers, radio, television, and internet outlets.

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 16.1: The Evolving News Media

- D. a broad term that includes newspapers, magazines, radio, television, internet sources, blogs, and social media postings that cover important events.
4. Robert is a producer at CNN. Simultaneously, a candidate for the presidency is giving an economic speech and a hurricane is bearing down on the Florida coast. Robert decides to cover the hurricane exclusively and ignore the candidate's speech, at least for the time being. This decision exemplifies the media's role in:
- A. muckraking.
 - B. investigative journalism.
 - C. the wire service.
 - D. agenda setting.
5. What late-1780s process placed newspapers at the forefront of American political life?
- A. the American Revolution
 - B. the Constitution's ratification debates
 - C. muckrakers discovering wrongdoings
 - D. the Vietnam War
6. The First Amendment specifically prohibits ____ from "abridging the freedom of speech or of the press."
- A. the general (federal) government
 - B. the president
 - C. private individuals
 - D. Congress
7. The penny press was the first example of the _____, sources of information (including newspapers, television and radio broadcasts, and internet content) designed to reach large audiences.
8. In which of the following scenarios would the wire service be MOST useful for the *New York Sun* in 1847?
- A. to analyze stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange
 - B. to provide its readers daily updates on the course of the war with Mexico
 - C. to interview President Polk on his visit to New York City
 - D. to cover the opening of a new mercantile house across the river in New Jersey
9. Which scenario exemplifies investigative journalism?
- A. An undercover reporter exposes Allied Meats use of arsenic as a cheap filler in its steaks.
 - B. A police sergeant gives a press conference on a recent crime, and it is summarized in the *Los Angeles Times*.
 - C. A reporter listens to a speech by a gubernatorial candidate and writes a story about it.
 - D. An Associated Press report from the war with Spain is printed in the *New York Times*.

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 16.1: The Evolving News Media

10. Broadcast media can best be defined as:
- A. forms of electronic communication that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking.
 - B. outlets, including radio and television, for news and other content that bring stories directly into people's homes.
 - C. sources of information designed to reach a wide audience, including newspapers, radio, television, and internet outlets.
 - D. a broad term that includes newspapers, magazines, radio, television, internet sources, blogs, and social media postings that cover important events.
11. Radio meant for the first time that:
- A. a Kansan and a Californian could hear the State of Union address live at the same time.
 - B. an entire family could discuss the president's speech in the evening.
 - C. political controversies were made known to the people.
 - D. the president's voice could be heard by the people.
12. Why has cable television news become unapologetically partisan?
- A. These stations are heavily subsidized by the major political parties.
 - B. Cable television news is subject to fewer government regulations.
 - C. The major political parties now own these stations.
 - D. Advertisers expect partisanship to sell their goods.
13. The only American news source that has been steadily increasing since 2001 has been:
- A. television.
 - B. the internet.
 - C. newspapers.
 - D. radio.
14. Which scenario is an example of new media?
- A. A muckraker goes undercover as a factory worker to expose unfair labor practices.
 - B. The Associated Press files reports about the air force's mission in Syria and sells it to other news outlets.
 - C. A private citizen records his interactions with city officials and posts it on his blog with commentary.
 - D. CNN producers decide to cover the president's speech instead of an impending hurricane.
15. Which statement explains how new media has led to increasing political polarization?
- A. With fewer news sources, those that still exist have become highly partisan.
 - B. Quicker access to news means quicker judgments about that news, which generally reinforces partisanship.
 - C. Americans are now able to select their news sources and conflicting viewpoints are shut out.
 - D. More text messages are sent, and text messages are inherently partisan.

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 16.1: The Evolving News Media

16. Which of the following communication mediums was adopted the fastest by a quarter of Americans after its introduction?

- A. television
- B. mobile phones
- C. telephones
- D. radio