#### **I negate the resolution: In a democracy, a free press ought to prioritize objectivity over advocacy.**

[Definitions to only read if needed]

For the purpose of clarification, advocacy journalism is defined by expert in the field [Susan Careless](https://theinterim.com/issues/society-culture/advocacy-journalism/) as publications having a declared bias, or a publicly acknowledged editorial point of view. They are upfront about their editorial position even on their masthead.

I value **democracy**, defined by the Stanford [dictionary](https://diamond-democracy.stanford.edu/speaking/lectures/what-democracy) as a political system with free and fair elections, active participation of citizens in civic life, and the protection of human rights for all citizens.

The most suitable value criterion to measure whether democracy is being achieved is **Maximizing Societal Welfare**. Societal welfare encompasses all the dues a society ought to provide including rights, health, and order. Legitimate democracies are obligated to improve the welfare of society for the individuals living in it.

My sole contention is that advocacy journalism reinforces democracy.

#### **Subpoint A: Marginalized Groups**

Attempts to be perceived as unbiased and neutral lead to the exclusion of minority voices in journalism, violating the democratic pillar of active participation of citizens in civic life. According to the [Census Bureau](https://www.cjr.org/special_report/race-ethnicity-newsrooms-data.php), racial minorities make up a disproportionately small amount of journalism jobs. The mainstream has allowed what it considers objective truth to be decided almost exclusively by white reporters and their mostly white bosses. According to [Baleria 20](https://www.poynter.org/educators-students/2020/its-time-for-journalism-educators-to-rethink-objectivity-and-teach-more-about-context/), those selective truths have been calibrated to avoid offending the sensibilities of white readers- excluding important conversations about race in the United States. Ignoring uncomfortable racial issues allows power inequities to perpetuate. According to [Democracy Fund](https://democracyfund.org/what-we-do/public-square/equitable-journalism/): marginalized groups need news that fully reflects their communities and responds to their interests to help them participate meaningfully in democracy, exercise their rights, and inform daily living.

#### **Subpoint B: Public Trust**

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Advocacy journalism is the key to building community trust and solving community problems. Advocacy journalism that focuses on specific community needs and responds with solutions and resources, also called engagement journalism, fosters public trust through two main routes.

* 1. First, journalistic focus on community builds public trust via interpersonal relationships. [Zahay 20](https://sci-hub.hkvisa.net/10.1177/1077699020954854) explains that instead of pursuing distance and objectivity, engagement-oriented journalists work within civic networks to facilitate citizens’ own deliberation. [Davies 17](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jan/19/crisis-of-statistics-big-data-democracy) finds that objective reporting that passively reports on community issues actually decreases public trust, as reducing social and economic issues to numerical aggregates and statistics violates people’s sense of political decency.
* 2. Secondly, honestly disclosing biases that inform journalists’ positions increases perceptions of trustworthiness. [Zahay 20](https://sci-hub.hkvisa.net/10.1177/1077699020954854) empirically prove that when journalists honestly disclosed their biases and motivations for writing a piece, readers felt it was more trustworthy and were likely to acknowledge that while only representing one side, the information was accurate. Conversely, sources that did not disclose biases and claimed to be “objective” led to readers being highly skeptical of the accuracy of either side of the issue.

Public trust fostered through advocacy journalism has two key impacts.

* 1. The first of which is that financial support from audiences increases. A study by G[reen and McKinley 19](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/lindsaygreenbarber.com/assets/IA+Engaged+Journalism+Report+1.31.19.pdf) explains that public trust in advocacy journalism results in audiences being willing to financially support the journalism. Empowered by independent donors rather than state funds or large corporations, journalists are less susceptible to corruption and other biases that hinder a truly free press.

* 2. The second is that public trust in the media increases civic engagement. [Green and McKinley 19](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/lindsaygreenbarber.com/assets/IA+Engaged+Journalism+Report+1.31.19.pdf) find trust in media empowers civic engagement as communities are given the tools and resources to enact social change. [Huessy 20](https://www.bangthetable.com/blog/community-engagement-steps-up-participation-in-climate-action/) reports that civic engagement is a crucial part of bolstering social movements such as climate change. [Marwa 15](https://www.iiste.org/Journals/index.php/PPAR/article/viewFile/22845/22700) and [Yale School of Environmental Policy](https://environment.yale.edu/news/article/building-public-and-political-will-for-climate-change-action) further outline that civic engagement increases the likelihood governments will prioritize new social policy.

Overall, by ensuring marginalized groups are given a voice and facilitating crucial public trust in media that empowers social change, advocacy journalism reinforces democracy. [Cordenillo 18](https://www.idea.int/news-media/news/democracy-and-peace-%E2%80%93-symbiotic-and-mutually-reinforcing) furthers that a strong body of literature documents the relationship between democracy and increased global peace. Less democracy means less legitimate government, and a more unstable, violent world altogether.

Thus, I strongly negate and will move on to my opponent’s case.

Neg Cards

#### **Susan careless:**

“Advocacy Journalism”

#### ***Ms. Careless is a professional member of both the CAJ and The Periodical Writers Association of Canada and is also an associate member of the Canadian Church Press***

#### **Before speaking about advocacy journalism, we should probably define our terms. An advocate speaks or pleads on behalf of another, giving the other a face and a voice. Advocacy journals – sometimes called alternative publications – have a declared bias, a publicly acknowledged editorial point of view. They are upfront about their editorial position even on their masthead.**

#### **Dictionary:**

What is Democracy? Lecture at Hilla University for Humanistic Studies January 21, 2004

Democracy consists of four basic elements: I want to begin with an overview of what democracy is. We can think of democracy as a system of government with four key elements: A political system for choosing and replacing the government through free and fair elections. 2. The active participation of the people, as citizens, in politics and civic life. 3. Protection of the human rights of all citizens. 4. A rule of law, in which the laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens.

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#### **Census Bureau:**

Gabriel Arana 2018 -a contributing editor at *The American Prospect*. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, HuffPost, Salon, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Atlantic*, Slate, and The Daily Beast. He lives in New York City.

“Decades of Failure”

Newspapers have failed spectacularly at achieving that goal. According to the Census Bureau, racial and ethnic minorities comprise almost 40 percent of the US population, yet they make up less than 17 percent of newsroom staff at print and online publications, and only 13 percent of newspaper leadership.

Despite being in majority-minority cities, the newsrooms of *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, for instance, are both 81 percent white. *The Washington Post* is 70 percent white. Minorities make up 72 percent of the population of Los Angeles, but only 33 percent of the *Los Angeles Times*. According to the Radio Television Digital News Association, the numbers in other media look slightly better, if still not impressive: in 2018, about a quarter of staffers in TV newsrooms are people of color; in radio, it’s 11.7 percent. The American Society of Magazine Editors doesn’t track racial and ethnic diversity, though its industry’s mastheads remain stacked with old white men.

#### **Baleria 20:**

#### **Gina Baleria-*is an assistant professor of digital media, media writing, and journalism at Sonoma State University and a former broadcast and digital journalist***

#### **Objectivity became the gold standard of news reporting, but the word “objective” came to be applied not to the process of newsgathering, but to journalists themselves. To convey objectivity, some journalists refrained from voting to keep from appearing biased. Many adopted the detached, safe tone originally developed by the Associated Press and other wire services to appear more neutral and thus marketable across news markets. And many began to seek sources from “both sides” of an issue, to illustrate that they were giving every side a voice (no matter how valid or how absurd).**

#### **The “facts” and “truth” that have generally been deemed objective are actually centered on a mainstream, white, male, able-bodied, cis-gendered perspective — not actually objective or neutral at all.**

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#### **Democracy Fund: 2021**

While every American needs quality information to live well and contribute to civic life, news organizations have long overrepresented the interests of people privileged with wealth and power. People of color, women, and the LGBTQ community, for example, have factored far too little into what is covered, how it’s covered, and from whose perspective. At the same time, newsrooms run by and for historically marginalized groups have long modeled what we now call “engaged journalism” — with a deep understanding of their communities, they have created content that serves community needs. Building this relationship between journalists and communities is important. Traditional outlets with a history of exclusion must keep equity at the center of their efforts to embrace this model.

#### **Zahay 20:**

“Trust: Traditional and Engagement Discourses for Practicing Journalism in a Digital Age”

Megan L. Zahay, lecturere at the Department of Communication arts

This work of rhetorical analysis interrogates the understanding of journalism as a deliberative instrument in democracy. With 42 in-depth interviews and hundreds of pages of text from websites, social media, and trade press articles, we find a major shift occurring in the United States between more traditional reporters and a growing class often calling themselves “engagement specialists.” These engagement-oriented journalists assert a responsibility to relationally engage with citizens in person and online, making space for them in the news production process. These emerging routines of trust-building are informing a new rhetoric around what it means to “do journalism.

#### **Davies 17: How statistics lost their power – and why we should fear what comes next Williams Davies is a sociologist and political economist.**

#### **in theory, statistics should help settle arguments. They ought to provide stable reference points that everyone – no matter what their politics – can agree on. Yet in recent years, divergent levels of trust in statistics has become one of the key schisms that have opened up in western liberal democracies. Shortly before the November presidential election, a study in the US discovered that** [**68% of Trump supporters distrusted the economic data**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/when-the-facts-dont-matter-how-can-democracy-survive/2016/10/17/560ff302-94a5-11e6-9b7c-57290af48a49_story.html?utm_term=.dd8c85b6c7f9) **published by the federal government. In the UK, a research project by Cambridge University and YouGov looking at conspiracy theories discovered that 55% of the population believes that the government “is** [**hiding the truth**](https://yougov.co.uk/news/2015/02/13/are-conspiracy-theories-political-losers/) **about the number of immigrants living here”.**

#### **Rather than diffusing controversy and polarisation, it seems as if statistics are actually stoking them. Antipathy to statistics has become one of the hallmarks of the populist right, with statisticians and economists chief among the various “experts” that were ostensibly rejected by voters in 2016. Not only are statistics viewed by many as untrustworthy, there appears to be something almost insulting or arrogant about them. Reducing social and economic issues to numerical aggregates and averages seems to violate some people’s sense of political decency.**

#### **More Zahay 20:**

#### **“ However, traditionally oriented journalists articulated the increasing distrust as citizens’ misunderstanding of the norms and role of their profession. The way to ameliorate it, they felt, was not to change journalistic practice, but to continue more steadfastly in traditional work until citizens saw their value, particularly as displayed through the norms of objectivity, transparency, and accuracy.”**

#### **Green and Mckinely 19 This report was researched and written by Lindsay Green-Barber, PhD and Eric Garcia McKinley, PhD. ENGAGED JOURNALISM: PRACTICES FOR BUILDING TRUST**

”We set out to answer these questions through a four month research project where we surveyed the field to identify the practices organizations consider to be “engaged journalism,” an inclusive practice that prioritizes the information needs and wants of the community members it serves, creates collaborative space for the audience in all aspects of the journalistic process, and is dedicated to building and preserving trusting relationships between journalists and the public. We then dove deep into four very different organizations to learn not only what they do, but why they engage with communities, as well as how they know if their strategies are working. Through this research, we find evidence to support the following: Engaged journalism increases audience trust in journalists and

journalism organizations.

• Engaged journalism builds trust among journalism organizations

and audiences, which results in audiences being willing to

financially support journalism.

• Engaged journalism results in audiences being more civically

engaged in their communities

#### **Huessy 20: Community Engagement Steps Up Participation in Climate Action**

#### **Sally Hussey, Table Principal Writer and Editorial Director**

#### **But, research is also emerging into the impact of community-led solutions. The contribution of community-based sustainability initiatives (CBSIs) to a transition towards a low-carbon society includes community gardens, solidarity purchasing groups, community-supported agriculture, alternative food networks, recycling, sustainable mobility, and renewable energy, to name the most prominent. These grassroots innovations and transition initiatives serve to address large-scale policy changes as well as bottom-up social practices and behaviour.**

#### **Marwa 15:**

#### **Collectives Action Theory and Practice of Public Policy: The Relationship between Public Policy and Collective Action Nyankomo Marwa University of Stellenbosch Business School, South Africa**

Government control and regulatory regimes is the most widely recognized mechanism as a solution to collective action problem. The major challenge of this approach is the creation of the higher order collective action problem, while solving lower order problem. An example of this is the income equalization scheme in Canada. As the economic dynamics change across the provinces, some provinces would prefer to receive the income equalization than giving aid to others. Another parallel problem is the principal agent problem, in large organization like government, monitoring and supervision of provision of collective good is important. However those who are appointed to monitor the activities have their own interests which may not be aligned with the collective interests. In a hierarchical organization like federal government this problems is very common and sometimes very costly.

#### **Yale School of Environmental policy By Anthony Leiserowitz, Anthony Leiserowitz, Ph.D. is the founder and Director of the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and a Senior Research Scientist**

# Building Public and Political Will for Climate Change Action

Global climate change is a “massive collective action problem.” While changes in individual behavior (for example, energy conservation) can help reduce emissions, system-level changes to the way human societies use energy and natural resources are necessary to limit global warming to “safe” levels. Government policy is one important means of system change — including laws, rules, regulations, standards, and incentives. But many climate change policies, from the local level to the global level, founder on the lack of “political will” — the unwillingness or inability of government officials to enact policies that will reduce carbon pollution at the scale and speed required. Public will, especially as expressed through citizen activism, is an important influence on the policymaker process. Strong public demand increases the likelihood that governments will prioritize climate change action.

#### **Cordenillo 18 Raul Cordenillo- from university of the Philippines**

### **Democracy and Peace – symbiotic and mutually reinforcing**

The relationship between democracy and peace is perhaps one of the more researched topics in political science. Is democracy good for peace? Or is it peace that leads to democracy? One of the foremost theories on this is the Theory of Democratic Peace, originally conceived by Immanuel Kant. The theory suggests that the more democratic two regimes are, the less likely they will engage in conflict. Dan Reiter, in his article “[Is Democracy a Cause of Peace](http://politics.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-287)”, looks more closely into this relationship by addressing critics of the theory who argue that the *“observed correlation between democracy and peace does not mean that democracy causes peace”*. Reiter concludes firstly, that there is enough evidence to show that democracy does cause peace at least between democracies and secondly, several factors (including democracy) cause peace and that the causality among the factors of democracy and peace is likely to be bidirectional.

The Theory of Democratic Peace when related to International IDEA’s [Global State of Democracy](https://www.idea.int/gsod/) publication, which put forward that from 1975-2015 democracy has advanced with most electoral democracies established during this period surviving, can help explain why there is more peace and lesser conflict. This is further qualified in [Inclusive Peace – or not peace at all](https://www.idea.int/news-media/news/inclusive-peace-%E2%80%93-or-no-peace-all), which advances that within countries, inclusive governance and adherence to fundamental rights can help a great deal in overcoming challenges to peace and parting ways with a violent past.