

# Trad 1NC

**Harold Bloom**, an American literary critic, once stated, “Great literature will insist upon its self-sufficiency in the face of the worthiest causes.” It is because I agree with Bloom, in the position that advocacy promotes good, that I feel compelled to **negate** today’s resolution:

**Resolved: In a democracy, a free press ought to prioritize objectivity over advocacy.**

For clarification of today’s round, I offer the following counter definitions:

According to [Merriam-Webster](#), **democracy** is designed as a government by the people, run by majority rule.

According to the [Collins Dictionary](#), a **free press** is defined as a body of book publishers or members of the news media who are not restricted by the government censorship in political or ideological situations.

According to [Merriam-Webster](#), to **prioritize** means to place something at a certain degree of importance.

According to [Merriam-Webster](#), **objectivity** is the quality of being impartial.

According to [Merriam-Webster](#), **advocacy** is the act of supporting a cause or public expressing support for someone or something.

## FW

**The highest value** within today’s round is **egalitarianism**, defined as a belief that all humans are equal in societal, political, and economic scenarios to eliminate inequalities within humanity according to [Merriam-Webster](#). **Egalitarianism is most important in today’s round** because we can deconstruct oppression and encourage diversity.

**The best criterion** for evaluating this resolution is **communitarianism**, defined as the idea that human identities are mainly formed by varying types of constitutive communities to inform our moral and political decisions, as well as policies and institutions, according to the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#).

It best achieves my value of egalitarianism because communitarianism measures egalitarianism by promoting equality and reducing oppression. So, through communitarianism, we will uphold equality by prioritizing advocacy.

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**DO NOT READ:** OBSERVATION: MISINFORMATION IS NOT ADVOCACY

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In **negating** the resolution, I offer the following contentions:

### **Contention I: Advocacy reduces oppression.**

#### **1] Destabilizing objectivity is necessary to come to terms with movements, like Black Lives Matter, and to overcome white dominance in journalism.**

Andrea D. **Wenzel**, assistant professor of journalism at Temple University, **2020**

"Sourcing Diversity, Shifting Culture: Building 'Cultural Competence' in Public Media," Digital Journalism, [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Andrea-Wenzel/publication/343947406\\_Sourcing\\_Diversity\\_Shifting\\_Culture\\_Building\\_Cultural\\_Competence\\_in\\_Public\\_Media/links/5fec94e792851c13fed616e2/Sourcing-Diversity-Shifting-Culture-Building-Cultural-Competence-in-Public-Media.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Andrea-Wenzel/publication/343947406_Sourcing_Diversity_Shifting_Culture_Building_Cultural_Competence_in_Public_Media/links/5fec94e792851c13fed616e2/Sourcing-Diversity-Shifting-Culture-Building-Cultural-Competence-in-Public-Media.pdf) (accessed 2/8/22) // crosini

However, **Bourdieu's theory of fields offers some potential areas for optimism for those hoping to challenge the dominance of whiteness and objectivity in journalism** in the current moment. While he suggested the entrance of new actors within fields would rarely be transformative on their own, **the theory nods to the possibility of neighboring fields exerting pressure, particularly in moments of political change and social movements.** At the time of writing, a social movement in support of Black Lives Matter in the United States has gained greater visibility and sway. In this moment, **a conversation has emerged within mainstream U.S. journalism around objectivity and whiteness—forcing a number of major publications to confront long-held practices, with some embarking on their own cultural competency initiatives.** Future research will be needed **to determine whether external pressures, in combination with initiatives individual newsrooms like WHYY are taking, may cumulatively press the larger field of journalism to grapple with whiteness and take a long overdue reflexive turn.**

#### **2] The demand for objectivity silences groups like women, immigrants, and people of color, it weakens their ability to fight against hateful ideologies—it's better to give the oppressed an active voice and this outweighs the effects of objective approaches—transparency solves the disadvantages.**

Jelena **Colic**, journalist at Leitende Redakteurin Publishing, **2020**

"Objectivity, Identity and Proximity: how female journalists with migration background fight the anti-immigrant discourse in Austria," Repository of Universitat Pompeu Fabra, [https://repositori.upf.edu/bitstream/handle/10230/52397/Colic\\_2021.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://repositori.upf.edu/bitstream/handle/10230/52397/Colic_2021.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y) (accessed 2/8/21) // crosini

There has been an overall agreement indicating that their **migration background, heritage in general and identifying as a woman** heavily **influences** the work of the **female journalists when covering the anti-immigrant discourse.** This **very composition of their identity is one of the main reasons for loosening the boundaries of the objectivity norm.** **Coming from a marginalized group themselves, the five female journalists can identify with the realities of life of the people they**

cover in their articles. This proximity, when it comes to the realities of life and getting in contact with alternative sources, seems to be the main motor of opting for a more subjective approach and offering transparency on behalf of the female journalists. Giving an[d] active voice to those who are rarely subject of the mainstream media, has an incredible representational character and representation matters.

## Impacts/Solvency

**Value]** Reducing oppression means upholding egalitarianism.

**Criterion]** Communitarianism is a direct result of reducing oppression.

**Resolution]** Reducing oppression means sustaining democracy.

## Contention II: Advocacy enhances diversity.

### **1] Advocacy-based journalism can solve systemic racism.**

**Liederman 21** [Mack Liederman, reporter with a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern, 02-01-2021, "Let's rethink objectivity," Redacted Magazine, <https://redactedmagazine.com/2021/02/01/lets-rethink-objectivity/>]/Kanke // crosini

In an op-ed that gained traction this summer in The New York Times, "A Reckoning Over Objectivity, Led by Black Journalists," two-time Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Wesley Lowery attempts to use the momentum of Black Lives Matter to debunk the myth of objectivity. For Lowery, the stakes of **objectivity** are heavy. In fact, the Golden Rule **may be better labeled as Thinly Veiled Racism**. Lowery writes in summary, "**The views and inclinations of whiteness are accepted as the objective neutral.**" Look no further than the names spilling down any masthead (even this one), or to the TV newsrooms of The Wire, Spotlight, The Post and even Anchorman, and an essential reality becomes unavoidable: **Journalism has been owned, operated, curated and defined by white people. The dogma of "quality journalism" has rested on the idea that the truth can stem only from objectivity, one that is defined by white reporters, their white editors, and their white bosses. The ones editing pages in red ink, assigning articles, hiring writers and framing the larger media narratives are the ones that ultimately get to decide what is and what is not objective journalism.** While objectivity may be a powerful method of reporting, spurring journalists to strive toward factual accuracy, it is not an achievable goal. There is nothing objective about the subliminal and not-so-subliminal biases that seep into any given piece of journalism. How we interpret objectivity is inherently opinionated. And what's objective about an opinion? Even your wiry professor, your wholesome English teacher and your loud gum-chewing colleague would know the clear answer to that one. Yet **it is the sacred myth of objectivity that has long left it unquestioned, untouched and under-scrutinized in predominantly white spaces. The promises of objective reporting allow for white journalists to cover Black communities from a safe distance, supplying a baseline of journalistic credibility where none should be assumed. The consequence of white-framed objectivity has been an underserving of coverage on Black issues and a general silencing of reporters that dare to challenge the conventions of their profession. Objectivity is not an ideal — it's a racial issue.** Lowery chooses to look forward. **While America can never truly uproot itself from the enduring appeal, familiarity and continuously consequential history of white supremacy, journalism stands in a strong position to challenge the status quo.** The democratization of information through the internet has allowed for more Black voices to be heard and more Black stories to be told. The changing demographics and increasingly diverse readerships of major publications have leveraged its most powerful galvanizing agent — C.R.E.A.M. (Cash Rules Everything Around Me) — toward hiring and promoting the work of non-white staff. These **favorable trends are not nearly enough. Our collective reckoning on race calls for a reckoning on our media** — the **total dismantlement of objectivity.** Redacted Magazine hopes to play its (albeit small) part in a new direction forward. As pre-professional writers and editors, we believe that we have the runway and the independence (from potential future employers) to build a platform that begins with a socially equitable ethos. And when we fall short, we ask to be called out. This is how we become not objective journalists — but fair journalists. Let's ditch the Golden Rule and **forget objectivity. That's the only way we can begin to tell the truth.**

## Impacts/Solvency

**Value]** Diversity enriches the idea of egalitarianism.

**Criterion]** Communitarianism can become more prevalent in society with diversity.

**Resolution]** Diversity further represents all, thus all have representation within democracy.

## Promoting Democracy

**1]** A free press should enable the public's right to freedom of information to promote and safeguard democracy. Specifically, media should be distributed in its ownership to allow for the plurality of viewpoints and voices.

**ACE,** The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network is the world's largest online community and repository of electoral knowledge, the foremost aim of ACE, is to foster the integrity of elections and to promote credible, sustainable, professional and inclusive electoral processes throughout the globe, **2012**, "Media and Elections: Obligations of Pluralism", <https://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/me/mea/mea01b> (accessed 7-11-21)

It is important to stress that the role of the media is not just as a vehicle for expression in the narrow sense. The media are important also as a means to enable the public to exercise their right to freedom of information; and this right is closely linked to media pluralism, because without it the public cannot access a diversity of information. Detailed guidelines produced by the United Nations reflecting best international practice on pluralism and access to the media include those issued by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia. These stated: An independent and free media should have a diversity of ownership, and it should promote and safeguard democracy, while opening opportunities and avenues for economic, social and cultural development.[v] In the most definitive statement from a United Nations authority, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Abid Hussein, concluded in his 1999 annual report: "There are several fundamental principles that, if promoted and respected, enhance the right to seek, receive and impart information. These principles are: a monopoly or excessive concentration of ownership of media in the hands of a few is to be avoided in the interest of developing a plurality of viewpoints and voices; State-owned media have a responsibility to [must] report on all aspects of national life and to provide access to a diversity of viewpoints; State-owned media must not be used as a communication or propaganda organ for one political party or as an advocate for the Government to the exclusion of all other parties and groups..."[vi]

## Impacts/Solvency

**Value]** Protecting democracy protects everyone.

**Criterion]** Upholding the idea of many voices within a democracy outlines communitarianism.

**Resolution]** The resolution is nonexistent without a democracy.

**Therefore, you must negate the resolution.**

**[Optional]**

I have shown you that **advocacy reduces oppression, enhances diversity, and defends democracy.** For

these reasons, we can clearly conclude that egalitarianism should be upheld and we must negate the resolution, Resolved: **In a democracy, a free press ought to prioritize objectivity over advocacy.**