

# THE ELEMENTS OF JOURNALISM

Journalism and Democracy

# The Elements of Journalism

- 1. Journalism's first obligation is to the truth.
- 2. Its first loyalty is to citizens.
- 3. Its essence is a discipline of verification.
- 4. Its practitioners must maintain an independence from those they cover.
- 5. It must serve as an independent monitor of power.
- 6. It must provide a forum for public criticism and compromise.

# The Elements of Journalism, con't...

- 7. It must strive to make the significant interesting and relevant.
- 8. It must keep the news comprehensive and in proportion.
- 9. Its practitioners have an obligation to exercise their personal conscience.
- 10. Citizens, too, have rights and responsibilities when it comes to the news.

*The Elements of Journalism*, Kovach & Rosenstiel (2007)

# A Free Press

- “Whether one looks back over three hundred years, or even three thousand years, it is impossible to separate news from community and, over time, even more specifically from democratic community.”

*The Elements of Journalism*, Kovach & Rosenstiel (2007)

# A Free Press in an Electronic Age, con't...

- Do we bring a North American perspective – a kind of superiority complex - to the notion of the press acting as “a voice for the voiceless.”
- What about countries/communities that ***don't*** enjoy the kinds of freedoms that we simply take for granted/assume we have?

# A Free Press in an Electronic Age

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- At the beginning of the twenty-first century, what relevance does the previous statement have? In other words, access to information is now seemingly so open, 'free' and expansive; has journalism become reflective of a 'global democratic community' or are we just kidding ourselves?