

THE ELEMENTS OF JOURNALISM

Think of the following list as a sort of secular creed for our approach to reading, reporting, and writing the news. The tenets are taken from a book titled The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect, written by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel.

1. Journalism' 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.
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.