

As discussed in this week's material, trust in the news media is quite low. There are several reasons for this, and some are valid. For example, FOX News and MSNBC clearly have political agendas.

Another reason for our distrust in the news media is that politicians often argue that the media is biased when they report unflattering stories about them -- for example, former president, Donald Trump, used the term "fake news" quite often to refer to stories that he saw as being biased against him.

Finally, I'd argue that the [rise in conspiracy theories \(Links to an external site.\)](#) among the public has led us away from trusting many established institutions like the mainstream news media.

Your forum assignment this week is to be a critical consumer of news media. Here are the steps to the discussion:

Find an article in <https://www.usatoday.com/> and read it critically. You should look for an article that you think leaves out an important aspect of the story, shows some type of bias, or that you think got something completely wrong. Write about the problem or problems that you think the article has.

*** Note you MAY NOT use an opinion piece or editorial for this assignment because they are supposed to be based on the writer's opinion, and are therefore inherently biased. Your assignment is to write about a real news article. I suggest going to the section of the paper that covers national political news. If you are not sure about a story that you find, message it to me, and I'll help you out**