



## **Evaluating News & Current Events Using Critical Media Literacy**

### **Questions to ask of any current event:**

- Who are the subjects? What are their positions?  
Who are their supporters/detractors?
- Who is covering the story: Mainstream/corporate media or alternative/non-traditional media?
  - If mainstream: Who own the sites? What is their motivation/goal?
  - If alternative/non-traditional: What systems do they have in place that encourage us to trust their coverage?
- What/who are the sources?
- What is their motivation/interest?
- To whom are they writing/broadcasting (intended audience)? Via what medium?
- Evaluate language and images: Word choice? Emphasis? Positive/negative picture?
- Looking around your neighborhood/community, what stories are *not* being reported? Why do you think this is so? Can you take steps to get a story covered?

## **Trusted alternative sources**

- \* [AlterNet.org](http://AlterNet.org): Both original journalism and resource for other independent media sources; independent of corporate control
- \* [Mintpressnews.com](http://Mintpressnews.com): independent, investigative, and in-depth news source
- \* [Free Press](http://FreePress.org): Works to keep the internet free & open, curb media consolidation, protect press freedom, and ensure diverse representation in media
- \* [Politico.com](http://Politico.com): Independent journalists, on the record work, emphasis on politics and policy
- \* [Project Censored](http://ProjectCensored.org): Emphasis on free press, independent investigative journalism, cover stories “forgotten” or ignored by mainstream press
- \* [Snopes.com](http://Snopes.com): Website powered by researchers and writers who investigate, analyze, and evaluate rumors & innuendo; independent entity, no sponsorship (do not participate in Google ads)
- \* [Truth-out.org](http://Truth-out.org): independent, investigative journalism and critical analysis, with a focus on revealing systemic injustice