

Objectivity in Journalism

Benjamin Rossi

1 – The author suggests that objectivity is a worthy aim, but that we will inevitably fail to reach it. Why? What makes it valuable? Why can't we achieve it?

2 – As the author discusses, journalists inevitably have to make choices about which stories to bring to our attention and which details are important to include. These choices are influenced by a journalist's values and beliefs. Does this mean that all reporting is objectionably biased, or can responsible reporting be objective enough even though journalists must approach stories from their own perspective?

3 – Suppose truly neutral, even-handed, and disinterested reporting were possible. What worries or concerns might we still have?

4 – How can we tell when a reporter is engaged in fact-finding and when they are engaged in interpretation? What makes distinguishing this difficult?