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Assignment 1

There are a number of problems that journalists and the public face with expanding corporate ownership of news outlets. Political bias, showcasing a corporate interest and withholding the truth are just a few.

One problem that is very important is that the quality of reporting will continue to degrade. For example, these expanding corporations (hypothetically) will want the reporters to write stories about a celebrity scandal rather than climate change. For the public, this can cause problems. A journalist’s job is to inform the public on what is going on so that citizens can make educated decisions when they vote. If reporters are writing stories about a celebrity scandal, the public won’t be able to make an educated vote on candidates who want to make a difference with climate change. Another problem a journalist may face with expanding corporate ownership is withholding important stories from the public. Major corporations who are expanding their ownership of news outlets are more concerned with making profits rather than reporting what the public wants and needs to hear. In other words, it becomes more about the money rather than the quality and importance of reporting. If the news outlet is reporting social problems rather than economic or political problems, people more often than not tend to read more about the social gossip. However, the struggle for journalists becomes, how do they report stories to the public while still making them interesting and effective?

As mentioned above, one of the problems that journalists and the public may run into with expanding corporate ownership of news outlets is lower quality reporting. Before corporate ownership was expanding, there was a time where journalists reported what they thought was important for the public to know. The problem with major corporations is that they are being told what to report rather than voicing their opinions on what should be reported. A solution to this problem would be for journalists to not only stay true to their ethics, but suggest potential story ideas to their editors and explain the importance of the story and how it could affect the public in the future. I think this would be a beneficial solution because I think that it would allow for these major corporations to understand both sides and hopefully side with the journalist. With the expanding corporate ownership of news outlets, money becomes a problem because it becomes the only thing corporations begin to care about. A possible solution for this problem I think is to report stories that involve economics or politics, but make them personal so that the audience will be impacted. That way, readers will continue to come back and read more about a potential candidate or a potential political plan.

The most important thing is to keep the public interested. The job of a journalist is to find a way to make the readers interested but continue to have the readers come back. Expanding corporate ownership of news outlets have their reporters sometimes writing low quality stories and they care more about the money than what impact the stories can have on the public. Journalism ethics are important in this issue as well. As a journalist, keeping your reputation for good credibility is important and if a journalist is writing stories that he or she doesn’t believe in or doesn’t believe is “news,” they may run into bigger problems down the road. If a journalist can keep their credibility, the readers will continue to trust the news outlet, have access to the truth and will be able to participate as citizens in their communities and the nation.