**Why Is Journalism Important?**

**Define**

Journalism citizen self-governing democracy

fundamental reliable responsibility uninformed

accurate balanced comprehensive freedom

1. Scholars tell us that we as human beings have an innate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (called the awareness instinct) what we cannot directly observe.
2. We have an innate biological urge, scholars tell us, to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what we know.
3. The purpose of journalism is to provide citizens with the information they need to be free and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. In the United States, we operate as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. That means we as citizens have a responsibility for forming and running our own government. We are responsible for the way our society is governed.
5. If we as citizens don’t make an effort to find out what is going on in our world beyond our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, then I think it’s safe to say we are not acting responsibly.
6. We need a lot of information about our rapidly changing world. We need it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and on an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_basis.
7. Events in Syria, Russia, China, Afghanistan, Iran, and Indonesia have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ impact on our lives.
8. The bottom line here is we have to rely on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to find out what is going on in these places and tell us. That’s how we form a concept of our world that helps us make good decisions about how we are governed.
9. Journalism is really essential to our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ well-being.
10. The bottom line is: We are only going to continue to get the kind of journalistic information we need in a democracy if we, first of all, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out that information from journalists who are reliable, and secondly, if we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that journalists provide that information in a complete and responsible way.
11. If we fail in this task, quality journalism will disappear. That means that our society will suffer because we are governed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ citizens.
12. The takeaway here is that the more we understand about strong, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, accurate, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, comprehensive journalism, the better our chances of continuing to benefit as citizens who are free and self-governing.

**Answer Key**

1. Scholars tell us that we as human beings have an innate need to know (called the awareness instinct) what we cannot directly observe.
2. We have an innate biological urge, scholars tell us, to tell what we know.
3. The purpose of journalism is to provide citizens with the information they need to be free and self-governing.
4. In the United States, we operate as a democracy. That means we as citizens have a responsibility for forming and running our own government. We are responsible for the way our society is governed.
5. If we as citizens don’t make an effort to find out what is going on in our world beyond our immediate surroundings, then I think it’s safe to say we are not acting responsibly.
6. We need a lot of information about our rapidly changing world. We need it immediately and on an ongoing basis.
7. Events in Syria, Russia, China, Afghanistan, Iran, and Indonesia have a direct impact on our lives.
8. The bottom line here is we have to rely on journalists to find out what is going on in these places and tell us. That’s how we form a concept of our world that helps us make good decisions about how we are governed.
9. Journalism is really essential to our fundamental well-being.
10. The bottom line is: We are only going to continue to get the kind of journalistic information we need in a democracy if we, first of all, seek out that information from journalists who are reliable, and secondly, if we demand that journalists provide that information in a complete and responsible way.
11. If we fail in this task, quality journalism will disappear. That means that our society will suffer because we are governed by uninformed citizens.
12. The takeaway here is that the more we understand about strong, reliable, accurate, balanced, comprehensive journalism, the better our chances of continuing to benefit as citizens who are free and self-governing.