

Media and Social Responsibility

Student Handout

Background

The explosion of the scope and power of the entertainment and news media in the past decade is astounding. The Internet, 24-hour news services, tabloid journalism, and the growth of cable and satellite television have fundamentally changed both access and content in the media. With these rapid changes have come challenges, particularly in regard to the media's influence on children. Join important figures from film, print, journalism and multimedia as they discuss their thoughts on the role and impact the media has on modern society and young people. The program includes insights from Ben Bradlee, James Cameron, Rita Dove, Geraldine Laybourne, George Lucas, Bob Stine, and Bob Woodward.

People, Places and Events

Conduct a brainstorming session with your fellow classmates to generate a list of at least five individuals, from different aspects of the media, who have made a noticeable difference. Next identify a significant contribution or key event in their lives. And then determine the geographic location or place associated with that event.

	PERSON	PLACE	EVENT
1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____

Pre-Program Explorations

Terms to Define

- Media
- Responsibility

PROGRAM GUESTS

George Lucas

(Moderator) is the creator of the phenomenally successful *Star Wars* saga and *Indiana Jones* series, and is Chairman of the Board of Lucasfilm Limited, LucasArts Entertainment Company, and Lucas Digital Limited. In 1973, Lucas co-wrote and directed *American Graffiti*. The film won the Golden Globe, the New York Film Critics' and National Society of Film Critics' awards, and garnered five Academy Award nominations. Four years later, Lucas wrote and directed *Star Wars* -- a film which broke box office records and earned seven Academy Awards. In 1992 George Lucas was honored with the Irving G. Thalberg Award by the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



- Society
- Emotion
- Violence
- Public Opinion
- Fantasy
- Reality

Topics to Research

- What are the different forms of media available in society today?
- How has the Information/Media Age changed access to the media and the scope of the media's coverage of society?
- How do young children determine the difference between fantasy and reality?
- Is there a proven link between violence and the media?
- Has the media's coverage of violence increased criticism of violence in the media?

Issues to Consider

- What is the role of the media, families, and schools, in raising and educating society?
- How does the entertainment media portray violence differently than the news media?
- What is the role of the news media in modern society?
- Is there a difference between traditional print and television journalism such as *The Washington Post* or *ABC News* and so-called "tabloid" journalism such as *The National Enquirer* or *Hard Copy*?
- Is violence an inevitable part of modern society?
- What is the responsibility of the media to society?
- Has the concept of personal responsibility changed in the Information/Media Age?

Post-Program Explorations

ACHIEVEMENT EXPLORATIONS

- Achievement Television has defined six components of achievement: vision, preparation, integrity, courage, passion, and perseverance. Choose one of the featured guests and give examples of ways in which he or she embodies these traits.
- Choose one of the individuals listed in the first achievement exploration, and analyze his/her contributions, in light of our definition for achievement. Can he/she be described as an achiever?

Civics Education/Public Policy Explorations

- Research through local newspapers recent acts of violence and crimes committed in your community in the past few weeks or months. Compile information on the crimes, including age of those apprehended, category of crime (property, violent, etc.), and the public reaction to the crimes.

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- What pattern(s) can you determine?
- Can students link any individual act or pattern in the database to a media image or theme?
- Gather copies of different examples of media journalism including local and national newspapers, national newsmagazines, and tabloids.
- Compare and contrast coverage of a specific topic, a crime, political contest, or social issue.
- Examine how specific facts and quotes are documented in the different sources?
- Compare the use of images from the event.
- Have students discuss the credibility of the different sources based on their exploration.