

The lack of ethics in digital media and its influence on political decisions in America

Ibrahim Kante

ENGL 150, Longwood University

Introduction and Thesis

Issue:

The necessity of the population to have reliable journalism to understand their community and make informed citizenry decisions.

Thesis Question:

How important is the role of digital media in American politics and how influencing is it?

My Stance:

There is an unquestionable preponderance given to digital media and their lack of ethics is damaging the political discourse in America.

Background/Opposing Views

- **Back Ground Information:**
High percentage of people receiving their information through social media and internet in general (4in 10 American).
- **Opposing Viewpoints:**
 - Social medias are open platforms whose influence on political decisions is very minimal.
 - Social medias are experiencing a reshape in traditional journalism ethics and there is very little evidence of its negativity. (Dombrowski, P. 2007).

Oligopoly



With the importance of these sites in the political discourse, it is important to have a accurate information available for the citizens. However, the lack of serious competition has given these sites virtual power over news platform thus strengthening their role on politics.

Gatekeeping

Unlike traditional media, social media came with a promise of free interaction. However, there has been evidence of silencing of opposing voices under the name of “good news”.



Tech company or publisher?



Given some discriminatory tendencies within the algorithms of these online media corporations, there is a legitimate question to be asked here about the real purpose of these companies before drafting proactive legislation if necessary.

Conclusion

Clearly, social media is providing a new platform for political information, opinion, and even dialogue. Despite acknowledging its tremendous importance, it is hard to determine how impactful it is for the American Republic — especially among the young voters who rely on social media most.

References

- Pew research center <http://www.journalism.org/2016/07/07/pathways-to-news/>
- Dombrowski, P. (2007). The evolving face of ethics in technical and professional communication
- Denis Prager, PragerU lawsuit complaint (2017)
- Gainous J. & Wagner, M. (2014). Tweeting to power. The social media revolution in American politics.
- Dan Sullivan v. Mark Zuckerberg . Facebook Senate hearing, (2018)