

Key People and Terms

Anchorman: CBS coined this word for the person who tells TV audiences about the news and calls on correspondents to provide stories.

“Areopagitica”: An eloquent plea for free speech, written in 1644 by English poet John Milton, that was later used by American revolutionaries.

Bell, Alexander Graham: Invented the telephone in 1876.

Bennett, James Gordon: Began the New York Herald in 1835 and turned it into the biggest newspaper in the world through sensational stories and innovative ideas.

Betty, Emily Verdery: First woman reporter on a New York paper (1867).

Bly, Nellie (aka Elizabeth Cochrane): Pioneered investigative reporting in the late 1800s and was once called the “best reporter in America.”

Boston News-Letter: First successful American newspaper (1704).

Bylines: Identify the author of a news story; first appeared in daily newspapers on the East Coast in 1886.

“CBS World News Roundup”: Debuted in 1938 and became America’s longest-running radio news show.

Corantos: Small pamphlets printed in London in the 17th century that summarized foreign news translated from German and Dutch journals.

Cronkite, Walter: Former CBS-TV anchorman once called “the most trusted man in America.”

Devil: A printer’s assistant.

Douglass, Frederick: Published The North Star, an influential paper dedicated to fighting slavery and bringing news to black Americans (1847).

First Amendment: First article in the Bill of Rights; provides for five freedoms – speech, religion, assembly, petition and press (1791).

Franklin, Ben: editor of the Pennsylvania Gazette (1729).

Guttenberg, Johann: Inventor of the printing press.

Hamilton, Andrew: John Peter Zenger’s attorney.

Harper’s Weekly: First illustrated paper in America (1857).

Hearst, William Randolph: Publisher of the New York Journal; excelled in the excesses of yellow journalism.

Hemingway, Ernest: Novelist who developed his writing style as a reporter for The Kansas City Star.

Internet: Began in the 1990s. Laptop computers, digital cameras and modems allow reporters to file stories and photos from anywhere in the world.

Inverted pyramid: A newspaper story structure in which the most important news appears at the top of the story and less important points follow in descending order. The structure became popular as reporters filed stories via telegraph during the Civil War, the first time hundreds of reporters covered a big event.

“Join, or Die”: First newspaper cartoon, published by Benjamin Franklin; depicts a divided snake that needs to unite to defend itself against the French and Indians. The cartoon was later used more dramatically during the Revolutionary War (1754).

KDKA: Pittsburgh radio station that broadcast the first regular radio schedule (1920).

Kennedy assassination: event whose coverage brought TV news to maturity. Of the homes with TV, 96 percent watched an average of 32 hours of coverage (1963).

Marconi: Sent the first radio signal across the Atlantic Ocean (1901).

Mencken, H.L.: Influential social critic of the early 20th century.

Missouri Gazette: First paper printed west of the Mississippi as printers accompanied settlers traveling west (1808).

Motion picture: First successful showing in a New York City theater in 1898.

Muckrakers: Reform-minded journalists who exposed injustice, fraud and political corruption in government and big business in the early 1900s.

Murrow, Edward R.: Legendary newsman whose radio reporting during World War II brought the war into America's living rooms.

NBC: Formed radio network (1926).

New York Daily Graphic: First newspaper to print a photograph (1880).

New York Sun: First successful penny paper.

Pennsylvania Evening Post: Became America's first daily newspaper (1783).

Penny press: In the 1830s, a new kind of newspaper aimed at the interests of the common people and costing one cent.

Pony Express: Briefly delivered news from distant points.

Postriders: Mailmen on horseback who delivered news and newspapers to editors and subscribers in New England during the 18th century.

Publick Occurrences, Both Foreign and Domestick: America's first newspaper (1690).

Pulitzer, Joseph: Publisher of the New York World; competed against Hearst and, through the circulation battle, helped incite the age of yellow journalism. Later, Pulitzer funded the first school of journalism at Columbia University and founded the Pulitzer Prizes.

Raymond, Henry J.: Founder of The New York Times (1851).

Roosevelt, Franklin Delano: U.S. president who declared war on Japan as the largest radio audience in history listened. Roosevelt also used radio to deliver "fireside chats" directly to American voters.

Scripps, E.W.: Began building the first newspaper chain in 1878.

Spanish-American War: Began after New York papers published by Hearst and Pulitzer sensationalized the story of the sinking of the U.S. Navy battleship, the Maine.

Stamp Act: Forced all papers to display an official British government seal and to pay a hefty tax. Editors violently protested, and the tax was repealed (1765).

Telegraph: Transmitted news, making long-distance reporting possible (1844).

Television: First commercial broadcasts, by NBC and CBS, in 1939.

Thomas, Isaiah: Publisher of The Massachusetts Spy; demanded independence from England.

Thompson, Hunter S.: Inventor of "gonzo journalism," a blend of satire, profanity and hallucinogenic exaggeration.

Time: The nation's first news weekly magazine, launched by Henry R. Luce (1923).

"The Today Show": First magazine-format TV program, begun by NBC in 1952.

Turner, Ted: Launched Cable News Network (CNN), the first 24-hour TV news channel, in 1980.

Twain, Mark (aka Samuel Clemens): Author of “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”; honed his writing style as a reporter in Nevada and California.

Typewriter: Patented in 1867.

Underground newspapers: Anti-Vietnam War and antiestablishment papers that blossomed on college campuses and in major U.S. cities in the 1960s.

USA Today: Changed newspapers by publishing shorter stories and using bold color (1982).

Watergate: Scandal that began with the break-in at the Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate building in Washington, D.C., and led to the resignation of President Nixon.

Woodward, Bob, and Carl Bernstein: Two Washington Post reporters whose investigative work exposed the Watergate scandal that prompted President Nixon to resign.

Yellow journalism (or sensationalism): Newspaper style that included loud headlines, stories on sin and sex, faked photos, crusades, publicity stunts and rumors disguised as news.

Zenger, John Peter: New York editor charged with libel when he printed accusations of official corruption. Zenger was freed when the jury agreed that citizens have a right to criticize government and that libel occurs only when printed words are “false, malicious and seditious.” The trial strengthened freedom of press in the colonies (1734).