

# Guided Reading Activity

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## Mass Media in the Digital Age

### Lesson 1 *How Media Impact Our Government*

#### Review Questions

**Directions:** Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

#### I. The Mass Media

- A. Through “deep background” interviews, the media can make information \_\_\_\_\_ without making it \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Journalists see their job as informing the \_\_\_\_\_ rather than passing along politicians’ messages.

#### II. The Executive Branch and the Media

- A. Government officials use \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to shape information, make announcements, or explain policy, actions, or decisions.
- B. Presidential \_\_\_\_\_ are carefully planned events that frequently include limited questions and preference to friendly reporters.
- C. Government officials influence the flow of information to the press through \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ events.
- D. Mass media’s \_\_\_\_\_ of elections has fundamentally changed the presidential nomination process.

#### III. The Legislative Branch and the Media

- A. The media cover big congressional \_\_\_\_\_ and bills as well as controversial \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ hearings.

## Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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- B. Since television exposure helps candidates gain \_\_\_\_\_, television has impacted who runs for legislative office.
- C. Television advertising, particularly the use of \_\_\_\_\_, has become a necessary part of a political campaign.

#### IV. The Judiciary and the Media

- A. Media coverage of the \_\_\_\_\_ focuses more on criminal trials than coverage of the Supreme Court and other \_\_\_\_\_ courts.
- B. Because the Supreme Court is known for being \_\_\_\_\_-proof and restrictions on the use of \_\_\_\_\_ or recording devices limit broadcast coverage, the media tend to cover only cases of \_\_\_\_\_ importance.

#### V. Media and the Public Agenda

- A. The mass media play a role in setting the \_\_\_\_\_ by bringing issues to the attention of the public and government.
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of media coverage influences how important people believe an issue is to the nation.

#### Summary and Reflection

**Directions:** Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How does the mass media influence who runs for president and Congress?

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