

25 • Journalism Quotes

"Education of a journalist is education of the masses."

—Aaron Akwete Sande, Malawi journalist, 1997

"Facing the press is more difficult than bathing a leper."

—Mother Teresa, missionary, 1990

"The First Amendment guarantees you many things, but it doesn't guarantee that you won't be offended."

—Tracy Beton, journalist, educator, 2001

"The First Amendment is not broken, but it may break if we keep trying to fix it."

—Steven R. Shapiro, American Civil Liberties Union, 1997

"I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

—Patrick Henry, 1775

"It is my duty to report all that is said; but I am not obliged to believe it all alike."

—Herodotus, Greek historian, c. 440 B.C.

"Democracies die behind closed doors."

—Damon J. Keith, senior judge, 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 2002

"Justice should never be secret. If it truly is justice, it has to be open to the public."

—Mark Goodman, executive director, Student Press Law Center, 2000

"We must not be afraid to be free."

—Hugo L. Black, U.S. Supreme Court justice, 1961

"Words, once they're printed, have a life of their own."

—Carol Burnett, entertainer, 1982

"Because this is America, you allow me to speak even though you don't like what I may say."

—Louis Farrakhan, minister, 1995

"Responsible dissent is the essence of democracy."

—Abigail McCarthy, writer, 1972

"Let the country know the facts, and the country will be safe."

—President Abraham Lincoln, 1861

"To be persuasive, we must be believable. To be believable, we must be credible. To be credible, we must be truthful."

—Edward R. Murrow, broadcast journalist, 1963

"The First Amendment guarantees a free press; the press itself must guarantee a fair one."

—Allen H. Neuharth, Freedom Forum, 2000

"Men of few words are the best men."

—William Shakespeare, writer of plays and poetry, 1599

"Secrecy and a free, democratic government don't mix."

—President Harry S. Truman, 1950

"There are more instances of abridgement of

the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachment of those in power than by violent or sudden usurpations."

—President James Madison, 1788

"No people anywhere can ever be truly free, unless they are free to know the truth."

—Bob Deans, White House correspondent, Cox Newspapers, 2002

"The basis of the First Amendment is the hypothesis that . . . free debate of ideas will result in the wisest governmental policies."

—Fred M. Vinson, Chief Justice, 1948

"A free press can of course be good or bad, but, most certainly, without freedom it will never be anything but bad."

—Albert Camus, French author, 1960

"Bakers can eat their mistakes, judges can overturn their mistakes, doctors can bury their mistakes, but journalists must forever face their mistakes because the written word is eternal."

—?

"When a person goes to a country and finds their newspapers filled with nothing but god news, he can bet there are good men in jail."

—Daniel P. Moynihan, in the University Daily Kansan, Feb. 16, 1977

"The freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments."

—George Mason, Virginia Bill of Rights, June. 12, 1776

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

—Thomas Jefferson, Jan. 16, 1787

"The newspapers! Sir, they are the most villainous, licentious, abominable, infernal- Not that I ever read them! No, I make it a rule never to look into a newspaper."

—Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816)

"In revealing the workings of government that led to the Vietnam War, the newspapers nobly did precisely that which the Founders hoped and trusted they would do."

—Hugo L. Black, associate justice, US Supreme Court, concurring opinion in 6-3 ruling that upheld the press's right to publish the Pentagon Papers, 1971

"Most of us probably feel we couldn't be free without newspapers, and that is the real reason we want the newspapers to be free."

—Edward R. Murrow, 1958

"They kill good trees to put out bad newspapers."

—James G. Watt, US Secretary of Interior, 1982

"I've never canceled a subscription to a newspaper because of bad cartoons or editorials. If that were the case, I wouldn't have any newspapers or magazines to read."

—Pres. Richard M. Nixon

"Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech."

—Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

"If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read: PRESIDENT CAN'T SWIM."

—Lyndon B. Johnson

"If freedom of expression becomes merely an empty slogan in the minds of enough children, it will be dead by the time they are adults."

—Ben Bagdikian

"You're never done. You're just out of time."

—Gary Lundgren

"Facts are to the mind what food is to the body."

—Edmund Burke

"Nothing is more dangerous than an idea, when it is the only one you have."

—Emile Chartier

"Asked about the power of advertising in research surveys, most agree that it works, but not on them."

—Eric Clark

"Sixty years ago I knew everything; now I know nothing; education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance."

—Will Durant

"The mere formulation of a problem is far more often essential than its solution, which may be merely a matter of mathematical or experimental skill. To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle requires creative imagination and marks real advances science."

—Albert Einstein

"The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts the moment you get up and doesn't stop until you get into the office."

—Robert Frost

"Confidence comes not from always being right but from not fearing to be wrong."

—Peter T. McIntyre

"I respect faith, but doubt is what gets you an education."

—Wilson Mizner

"The best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas."

—Linus Pauling

"The difference between the almost right word and the right word ... [is] the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning."

—Mark Twain

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."

—Mark Twain

"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts."

—John Wooden