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Post-Truth World

I believe we live in a world where the truth does not matter to the general public. The multitude of biased news outlets with both liberal and conservative points of view proves that people would rather hear a version of the truth that makes them feel like they are right than hear the truth. News outlets often tell two completely different versions of the same story, antagonizing the opposing political party. In reality, the truth probably lies somewhere in the middle, but most people do not want to admit their faults or give the opposing political party any credit.

The broadcasts of the Black Lives Matter protests in June 2020 is an example of two completely different narratives derived from the same story. I remember attending a family event during this time and discussing the matter with members of my family who do not share my political views. Members of my family frantically explained to me that if I attended any protests, other protesters would beat me because I am white. They implored me to stay home and as far away from the protests as possible. I disagreed and claimed that the police were the problem, not the peaceful protesters. I followed coverage of the protests on CNN, and it was clear the police and white supremacy groups were to blame for violent outbreaks during the protests. Later in the evening, I sat with my cousins, and they turned on coverage of the protests on Fox News. I realized we were consuming completely different information, and our strong disagreement made sense. News outlets like CNN antagonized the police as violence erupted while supporting the Black Lives Matter protests; they did not really acknowledge any faults made by the protesters. Alternatively, Fox News antagonized the protesters and supported the

police without acknowledging the progressive side of the movement. Both sides chose to leave out certain pieces of information and skew events to fit their opposing narratives. In reality, the truth probably lies somewhere in the middle, but it is much easier to ignore the faults of your party and point out the faults of the other side.

The broadcasts of the Black Lives Matter movement are an example of how stories are skewed every single day. From news about COVID and the situation in Iraq to the cancellation of celebrities, outlets distort the truth to fit their own agendas. Although the truth is available in each of these situations, people can take the time to read scientific studies, read about the history and complexities of the situation in Iraq, or why their favorite comedian is “cancelled,” most people prefer easy news that they agree with. The complex, tedious, and frankly boring truth often leaves people dissatisfied. While some people genuinely care about finding the truth, the general public happily believes news outlets that advertise themselves as conservative or liberal news outlets. Furthermore, no one can truly know the intentions behind one's actions or everything that leads up to an event taking place. Everyone has their own definition of the truth that tends to agree with their ideas, so everyone can feel right.