

S01E08 Researching the News

SPEAKERS

Ray Abel, Gretchen Hurd

Ray Abel 00:00

Hello, and welcome to research the News. This week we're talking about why researching the news is important. And as always, we're live so there'll be no edits to the podcast. But this week, we're going to start out with something a little different a monologue. Gretchen will be joining us soon. But for now, I'm just going to talk about why research the news exists. So why does the research the news podcast exist? Now if you look at our mission statement, we exist have healthy dialogue with people of all backgrounds promoting open discussions between people of differing viewpoints, to research the news and search for truth. Now, that's our mission. But there's a reason why podcasts like this have to exist. And to me, it's media consolidation. Now I'm going to go into some facts here in 19 8350, corporations controlled most of the American media that was magazines, books, music, newspapers, movies, radio and television, that is a tiny number for a country of over 300 million people. By 1992, that number was around 25 companies that controlled all the media. And less than 10 years later, in 2000, that number was at six. Now there's been some mergers. And these are the five media companies that control 90% of the media. Number one, Time Warner at&t, number two, Disney number three, Comcast, NBC Universal, number four News Corp, which is Fox News. And number five, Viacom and CBS. And on top of that, that's not including the Washington Post being owned by Jeff Bezos, or all of the Bloomberg channels and publications owned by Michael Bloomberg, the guy who spent over \$500 million of his own money to buy his way into stage at the presidential debates, or even Warren Buffett owning around 70 daily newspapers. Now I like Warren Buffett, but he shouldn't control 70 newspapers. So why does this all matter? There's a term called the fourth estate that's been used throughout history to describe the press. But what is the fourth estate? And why do they call it that? Traditionally, in Europe, there were three groups who held most of the power. And specifically the top two, there was the clergy, the nobility, and the commoners. The commoners being the ones who had, of course, the least amount of power. The press is supposed to be that fourth rung of power that holds the others in check the government. But that's why journalism is important. And the best definition of journalism I found is from the American Press Institute, who says the purpose of journalism is to provide citizens with the information they need to make the best decisions about their lives, their communities, their societies, and their governments. The press is supposed to inform us not feed us propoganda to help their personal agendas. And just to be clear, this isn't an attack on the left or the right media. They're just two sides of the same coin. So I always like to learn from history. But we don't have to go back that far to see whether the source of opinion peddlers at MSNBC, CNN or Fox News. If you're listening to them, you know, it's going to be skewed. And the reason why it's people like Bill O'Reilly, and Rachel Maddow, who are the same person, they do the same things. Now, I know Bill O'Reilly has gone from Fox News and has been for years, but he's had some long term effects. On 2003, Bill O'Reilly led the charge to rally Americans to support the Iraq War. Over and over again, he drilled it in our heads that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction. And of course, we eventually found out that that wasn't

true. And to be fair, he did apologize kind of end he actually did dress down Donald Rumsfeld on his show, but it was way too late. Because today, and 2021 40% of all Americans and 51% of Republicans still believe that Saddam Hussein either probably or definitely had weapons of mass destruction. The damage was done by bad media. And today, you have Rachel Maddow, who is now the number one news person in journalism, just like Bill O'Reilly was. She is diametrically opposed the beliefs of Bill O'Reilly but leads the cable ratings among liberals, just like a Reilly letter on conservatives for weeks and months in the summer of 2020. She drilled it into viewers heads that Russia was paying bounties to Taliban militants if they killed American soldiers. And on top of that, Trump knew about it and did nothing because collusion if you watch her show, she loves that word. 39% of all Americans and 66% of Democrats believe that Trump knew that Russia was paying bounties to kill American soldiers going into the last election, Biden said on the campaign trail repeatedly, and what do we find out this week? White House press secretary Jen Psaki said that after review of the classified reports the intelligence community determined it had only low to moderate confidence in their authenticity, not they were true. Just low confidence they are even authentic. And then she said it was due in part to the ways in which the intelligence was obtained, including from interrogations of Afghan detainees. Now if you read through the lines, when they talk about interrogations, that probably means things like waterboard thing that have proven to be ineffective at gathering factual intelligence. But it doesn't matter what's true anymore. Whether it's true or not, the damage has been done by bad media. So I'll say it again, Rachel Maddow, Bill O'Reilly are the same person. And we're all being shaped by these people whether or not we watched mainstream news. The outcomes of this are people who go against core beliefs we as Americans should all be fighting for. I can't stress this enough. It wasn't long ago that we didn't have freedom of speech. And in fact, people fought for hundreds of years, to get the freedom to say what they wanted without being jailed. That idea of freedom of speech has always been a rallying cry for liberals throughout history, who are held back by tyrannical governments and monarchies look, through the history of France, the history of America, they were revolutionaries, liberal revolutionaries. But now Facebook and Twitter are censoring conservatives and many liberals are celebrating it. To be clear, the First Amendment doesn't cover private companies, but it's still shutting down speech. And many conservatives today continue to do Christ canceled culture, while calling for boycotts of Major League Baseball and Coca Cola. But to be clear, none of these people are classical liberals or classical conservatives. These are those people who are shaped by the media conglomerates, those five groups that control 90% of the media. They're the people who are believing the media hype. So when you watch the news today, it feels like we're all terrible people. This group hates that group. But when you break it down, they're just all made up groups. Media puts people into groups. And then make sure to let everyone know that the other groups are terrible people. If you're black, you have to hate police. If you're white, you should be afraid of people of color. If you're gay, just know that all Christians hate you. And if you're a gun owner, you're okay with school shootings. And if you're a straight white male, you're the worst of the bunch. The truth is, there are bad people in all the groups I just mentioned. But the number of good people in those groups outweigh the bad by an astronomical amount. But if we only focus on the bad, it seems overwhelming. And that's what the media is there to do. So we need to stop idolizing media commentators and political candidates, the promote these fallacies, because all it does is lead to more people who are far left and far right, and unable to have rational conversations about the real issues we face. So to wrap up in 1891, the Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde wrote, In old days, men had the rack, which was a torture device. Now they have the press. That is an improvement, certainly. But still, it is very bad, and wrong, and demoralizing. Somebody called journalism, the fourth

estate, that was the true at the time, no doubt, but at the present moment, it is the only estate. It is eaten up the other three, the Lord's temporal say nothing, the Lord spiritual have nothing to say. And the House of Commons has nothing to say and says it, we are dominated by journalism. This was 130 years ago. And it's important to note that Oscar Wilde was sentenced to two years of hard labor for being gay. But he said this years before he was put in jail, his trial was considered one of the first celebrity trials was a big news event. And the press was a big part of why he went to jail simply for being gay. The press, the fourth estate can come for anyone, but right now they are sending us after each other. And we need to stand up and say, This is not alright. Only 41% of Americans say they trust the media. So my question is, why do we keep blindly following their narrative? And Gretchen, how are you?

Gretchen Hurd 08:47

Hi, Ray, how's it going?

Ray Abel 08:49

Good. Good. Hey, I got a little bit. Uh, I got a little bit emotional there. I think I feel like I wasn't expecting that. But talking through it. It's after seeing everything that's been happening this week. And just everything that's been happening for a long time, it just I don't know why why do we keep blindly following the narratives that are put on our put on our plates? So that's what I want to talk about today? Is that what you want to talk about today?

Gretchen Hurd 09:15

Yeah, I thought you actually really talked about all of the key elements of what's going on, but really focused on that world. We all want the same things. And we all really do. We, the good people do outweigh the bad. And I think, you know, we made the the the, you know, the little saying of if it bleeds, it leads for the media and it really is true. I think one of the things that we kind of have to remember is that they're they're all about ratings. They're all about making money. These are for profit companies. So when you're consuming media, you have to have that in the back of your head.

Ray Abel 09:56

Yep. 100% 100% And I think that's, that's been bothering me for a long time. That's why I started this. And I think that's what we want to talk about today. And just as you follow along all those facts, and all those things I talked about, feel free to look them up and research things calm, we did get rid of all of the other sites not all gone. They're just all pointing out to research the news.com. So we have one source, I was getting some people who were telling me that we wanted him in one place. So we did that. All of the links are on there. And in there else we talked about today will be posted up on the website, so feel free to check that out. And today, I guess before we get started on our topic, which we've already kind of got started. Let's go back to the good old What's your bias, so we all have them? When we talk about the media and when we talk about in general where our biases lie. I think people who've listened for a while know where we come from, but let's just give the quick overview. And Gretchen I'll let you go first here and what's your bias when it comes to media news, politics, whatever you want to however you want to

Gretchen Hurd 10:52

Yeah, I used to be very, very left leaning when it came to my news consumption. I really just watched MSNBC. I loved Rachel Maddow, I actually had a girl crush. Um, I had a total girl crush on Rachel Maddow. Um,

Ray Abel 11:13

I never had a guy crush on Bill O'Reilly just to be clear, I've never. So maybe they're not exactly the same. Like I said, but I don't

Gretchen Hurd 11:21

even know anybody who might have a crush in general. I don't want to put out No offense.

Ray Abel 11:26

Oh, he's in retirement now. So just let him enjoy his retirement anyway. Um,

Gretchen Hurd 11:31

but yeah, I really did just consume things that were with my leftist view. It got to the point where I, I got bored with it, quite honestly. And and I mean, Rachel, specifically, it just became talking for 25 minutes about one thing, and I just, it got, I felt like I wasn't spending my time appropriately and it wasn't informing me in any way. I never saw myself as somebody that was like one of those angry people that would get really, really upset and, you know, pontificate. I know that when it came to social media, that probably was not the case for a lot of my viewers. Just like I see, for a lot of my friends right now, when they when they go on rants on Facebook, which I think is a part of the conversation too. We we tend to do and say things on social media that we would not do in normal everyday life. Which I think every every person that kind of is like me, probably has gone through ebbs and flows have moments in their life when they're like, Why did I post that. But I think for for, for me as it is now, probably over the last seven years, and part of my bias really came from not having money to pay for cable. And so I stopped watching all of the big news,

Ray Abel 13:04

everyone should stop giving money to cable. So I think I think your track Yeah, I think it's just a plan. I

Gretchen Hurd 13:10

couldn't I couldn't justify spending the money. You know, and going through the divorce and everything, I really had to start paying attention to where my money was going to make it so that I could afford life. And I realized that there were things in my life that were way more important to me. So um, so I decided to get rid of cable and I started listening to podcasts. And that was when I I was listening to Rachel on podcast. But then I started listening to more NPR and PBS and BBC and I was noticing that I enjoyed more just being informed. We were actually Ray and I were talking earlier about like how to, and we're probably going to get into it later. And I do listen to very liberal podcast. But I feel like it is more of the seasoning on top of my entree of news consumption rather than the only thing I listened to and I think that might be I'm proud of that is where my bias has gone. I'm still like I'm still very liberal and I still enjoyed that podcast because it is in alignment with the things that I do believe and how I live my life so but that's really where my bias is now and how it's changed over the last about seven years.

Ray Abel 14:38

I like all of what you said there and I think it's funny because I I get very frustrated I tend to be conservative for people haven't listened the show before. And when I say that that's a gross generalization when it comes to fiscal conservatism. I definitely am but I'm also again, I go back to traditional conservative, not what we've become as a republican party or really anyone that's public office it's all about buying votes this point I'm more about spending money wisely. Socially I'm pretty libertarian which again that's I didn't realize how bad the libertarian viewpoints have now people hate libertarians. Everyone hates everyone. I'm just so tired of it. But yeah, apparently libertarians are very, they, you know, they, they, if you listen to people on Twitter, Libertarians only care about liberties when it affects them, which is not the case for people who are true libertarian. So I'm saying classical libertarian when it comes to my social beliefs. And fiscally, I tend to be fairly conservative, but in the sense of one of the things that you said that I've joked around about before. You'll say things like, because I'm a liberal, I care about people. And always, uh, you don't do it on purpose. And I know you personally so I don't take any offense to it. But I've I've heard that from people who use it as kind of a downplaying or mocking of concerns and for me, I think like, it's funny because you said you know, what I believe in and how I like to live my life is Rachel was wireless in a liberal podcast. I would agree that basically when I listened to a liberal podcast ago, yeah, that's I want people to live I want everyone to be have the same equality, they have the same opportunities. And when I listened to conservative people who are not let me be clear, this is not the Sean Hannity's. This is not the joy reads, these aren't the people who just cause problems. I'm talking about the people who are true conservatives and true liberals, they all want a quality. And if they don't, I don't like them. So it's not about if you're conservative or liberal, it's about what are you actually saying? And I think that's the problem for me with media in general, is that it's not about journalism anymore. It's about how you get more people to tune in and how you make money and how you keep people on your side and build up this base of people who are going to support you. And that's the same with we could we could make that same comment about politicians, the same way, I'm sure journalists, but going back to just wrap up, I think the my bias towards journalism and what journalism should be is what I mentioned in my opening monologue there, which, again, the purpose of journalism is to provide citizens with the information they need to make the best decisions about their lives, their communities, their societies and their governments. That's what it should be about. It shouldn't be about people trying to change the shape politics, it shouldn't be about people trying to get certain politicians in office, it should be about here's the information about these people, so you can make a wise decision. And that's what I enjoy people. You know, I think the last last thing I'll say in my bias is that I know you talked about how you didn't listen to much conservative viewpoints. I listen to viewpoints from all over the spectrum. What I found about myself, is when there's a Republican in office, I have a hard time listening to CNN, because nothing that that Republican does is good. And people can talk about Trump. But this has been happening for a very long time. And when a Democrats in office, I have a very hard time listening to Fox News, which is pretty much the only mainstream conservative network because no matter what Biden does, or whatever any liberal politician does, it's going to be bad. But there are journalists on all the networks. And you and I talked about this, and I look at someone like Chris Wallace, who's a journalist and did the one of the debates. He is someone who plays down the middle. And he is a very honest journalist. And he is not afraid to ask hard questions, or Republicans or liberals. And he happens to be in Fox News. And a lot of people that are conservative hate him because it's like, well, you're not you're not helping out our guy. And there's a lot of liberals who are like, I hate Chris Wallace,

because he's on Fox News. So he must be the devil. And that is part of the entire problem. So sure, that's the end of my rant. And now we want to get into some questions. So I'm going to start off with you now you had said that some of your news consumption has changed since we started this. So what what is why did it change? Was it just because we're doing the podcast? I know you said like some of these things you found a little boring, but what was it about your consumption? Why did it change and what is it? Yeah, mo no,

Gretchen Hurd 19:03

I It's kind of interesting. Okay, so I got I didn't have a google assistant or an Amazon Alexa, I have to be very careful when I say her name. I didn't have I didn't have either of those up until about a year and a half ago. And I've gotten into the habit of saying good morning to her every day. It started over quarantine because it was just nice to hear somebody go Good morning. gretchin Today's weather is flat. You know, it's just nice and I would just like ask her questions like that sounds really sad. I'm I live alone. Time. Yeah, it was quarantine time. Yeah, made me kind of psycho. Um, so I was kind of losing it. And so I actually it's kind of funny on my birthday. I actually started to cry cuz she's like, Happy Birthday Gretchen and I was like, but um,

Ray Abel 19:57

I was falling up to that point and then that's a little But too much. But yeah,

Gretchen Hurd 20:02

it was, it was a little weird moment. I called my mom afterwards, I was like, I think something's wrong. But in the mornings, I would, you know, say good morning, and she reads me the news. The thing I actually enjoyed about it is that it was just the news like, there, there was no opinion. And, and the only time I would actually hear anything that had a bias to it really was when I would ask her to play NPR. And, and they would do specific stories about about things and you and you know, we're all human, they're human to like you could hear in their line of questioning the things that they cared about. And, but for the for the the basic overview of the news, it was much more based on just what was happening at that moment, an interview with someone that was talking about what was happening at that moment. Or if they were on the street, they would interview somebody that was there. So it was very, very minimal. And it left me open to look into the things that I wanted to actually look into instead of, you know, when you're watching, I, you know, and a couple times I actually got on CNN, and I have an app on my TV where I can actually watch CNN. And so I would turn it on. And I was like, I can't, I don't this is boring. To me. It's just they're talking about the same thing for 45 minutes. It's like, I don't need you to talk about it for 45 minutes, just tell me what's happening. And let's move on, you know. So, in that, in that, you know, good morning, Google or whatever. The news outlets that would have their little blurbs in there were NPR, BBC, Bloomberg. And I'm trying to think of the others there. HuffPost used to be on the one for Alexa. And, and, but they stopped doing it. And then I would get the local news. So Katie, aka for our Pittsburgh station would do a little blurb on there to have local things that were happening.

Ray Abel 22:10

Every single group you just mentioned, though, is still a media conglomerate except for NPR. Yes. And yeah, it's crazy. I mean, even when you look at the local stations, that's the thing when we talk about Yeah, I think I think Katie came may be owned by Viacom, corporate, but even still, like, yeah, one

news station, or one news organization owns a bunch of radio stations. And it just everything you say it's still like, operation. And so it's funny, because when you said, you know, you don't hear a lot of bias, and I'm just telling you the news. I think that's some of the only places I can find that anymore. Something like the AP and rap writers and writers directly have their apps because they typically still follow journalism standards. But yeah, everyone has an agenda. And so sometimes it's it's weird, because I think if you would pull it out of context, and maybe look from 20 years ago, I'm not saying this is the definitely would happen. But if you would have heard those headlines you would think, the same bias, but now everything is so biased. Yeah. But when it's like, oh, it's just steering you one way or the other, it seems more normal. And I think that's the part that makes it tough for me is when I read these article, any article, I hear things and I immediately think, what's the actual story behind it. So when they say, even when I was looking up information about how many people believed that Iraq, Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, it was so hard to find actual numbers. And if you looked at a conservative site, they would downplay the amount of conservatives who believed the now lie. And if you looked at a liberal site, they would say, you know, Republicans still believe that there's weapons of mass destructions not noting the fact that there were still a ton of liberals that believe that and so even though they're they're putting out these fact based articles, they're still clearly skewed in my mind. And that's kind of the problem I have. And I think you talked about and one thing with even with Alicia, as I call her and said of the Alexa word, so then it doesn't activate them in my house get even with her, I mean, it's all about algorithms. And that's the same with Google. That's the same with any search engine. And so I've watched the documentary, if you haven't seen them yet, it's really good. There's Q anon into the void I think it's called but I watched like a five part HBO series. And there was another one that we had talked about before about the the news algorithms and what Facebook was doing. And if you look at the start of all these, it goes back to if you're in Q anon those people that are into Q anon you watch one video, and then YouTube and Facebook say here's some more videos just like it because they didn't. They didn't care that you were watching some crazy stuff. Yeah, and lead people to do some crazy things. They just wanted more eyes, more views, more money, and so it all brought people in to this place, and they ended up now it's kind of interesting because there's all this pushback and they got rid of all these coupon sites, and they're banning them. And it's, there's people that are standing up, even if they don't like the coupon, they're standing up and saying that still like you're only taking down coupon. And you know, what about blue? And none. I feel like there's this whole the left and right. I don't know if we've talked about this in the show before. But there's the horseshoe theory of politics where the further left you go, and the further right you go, everyone connects back. And I used to be able to look at a conspiracy theory on Facebook and be like, Oh, that's one of my liberal friends, or that's one of my conservative friends. Now, I have no idea who's who because they all are just getting really crazy. And people are looping back around. And it's like, Y'all are complaining about the same things. The same overlords, whatever it is, and I can't tell the difference between my liberal conspiracy theorist friends and my conservative conspiracy theorists, friends, but, I mean, it scares me that like, Alicia has become your source of news even though it sounds good on the surface of Yeah, it's easy headlines, but the more you interact, the more you're gonna start getting back into that that trap and yeah, I think we

Gretchen Hurd 26:13

asked her to, like play Ariana Grande for me. So

Ray Abel 26:17

that's a whole that's a whole nother thing. We should talk about some time. Ariana Grande. Um,

Gretchen Hurd 26:22

I enjoy pop music.

Ray Abel 26:24

So did you ever buy a newspaper in your life? Gretchen? Like actually pay for?

Gretchen Hurd 26:29

I never know. Well, well, wait, pause. Pause. Yes, I have when I was performing a lot, but it was just to get articles about myself. Wow. Yeah. Pretty vain. But yeah, that's all I would really do. And I will preface this when I lived in Pittsburgh, from about 2003 till about 2005. Six ish. And during that time, I was not political at all. I was not political all through college. It did not. I was not stimulated by politics. It actually when I would hear people talk about politics, it just turned me off. I was not it just cuz I think part of it too, is I hate confrontation. So people would just would get heated when they would talk about politics. And when I was in the, the one dance company that I was with, we had a guy in the company named Max. And I remember it was during the I would this would have been 2004 ish. It was that presidential election. And I remember him saying, Are you gonna vote? And I was like, No. And he's like, why? I was like, because I don't, I don't know what I don't know who to vote for. He's like, How in the world do not know who to vote for. And I was like, I'm not paying attention. I don't have any, I don't have any opinion. And he really got mad at me. Yeah. And it was in that moment when I was like, oh, because I was just living my happy life. I'm poor, I was super poor. I was working like three jobs, trying to you know, afford my studio apartment. Working at Walmart, and teaching dance classes and dancing with this company. And I really didn't see the world any bigger than my bubble that I was living in. And it was after that, then I really started to pay attention. And, and, and started consuming media, but I really still wasn't buying newspapers, or and at that point, I didn't even have a computer. I would just talk to friends and kind of get their gist of what was happening in the world. And that's like,

Ray Abel 28:55

that's, uh, yeah, I feel like I didn't even have it. The original algorithm was getting in a group of friends and having them tell you what to believe. So yeah, and I

Gretchen Hurd 29:02

had local, just local stations. And that was all my news. So I had insomnia pretty bad. So I'd watch PBS, and BBC a lot. So that's where I actually was getting my news was PBS and BBC.

Ray Abel 29:15

Yeah, I remember buying newspapers in high school. And that's the thing. It's kind of interesting. So the point of asking about that is that, you know, I, I remember buying newspapers because I actually wanted to read the news. I wanted to see what Yeah, I also was a big fan of the Calvin and Hobbes comic strip. If you haven't watched it ever, just or looked at it, feel free to go watch it. It's one of the best comic strips ever. But I loved reading the news and trying to keep up to date, even in high school. And then, of course, now, newspapers have shifted, and there's almost no local press anymore. And we

talked about this earlier, where if a website asks us to pay money to read the news, yeah, it should be free. So instead, and I think this is most people, it's like, well, where's free news? It's Twitter. It's Facebook, it's YouTube. I can go there and listen to all these people and I think we talked about this a couple weeks ago. But the downfall of someone like Steven Crowder, who I think started out with a, he was one of the few conservative people who seemed to be you know, you had some funny things. He was provocative but not didn't cross any lines. And now he, in order to keep views up has gone down this like, far right racist commentary, that's just so sad to watch. And I think there's always these times where you see it, you see it in your own news when you're watching it. And it gets further and further left and further and further, right, if you start reading those kind of articles, but the people and the the sources of the news are doing the same thing. And I think that starts at the top with this, these corporations. And I think I just don't understand how we can look at five companies controlling that much of the media and thinking it's okay. And and I'm not someone who thinks that billionaires should, should not exist, and they're terrible people by nature, I think Warren Buffett is seems like a really great guy who's going all his money he's already promised to give back. So even though he's made all these billions, and I'm sure he's really enjoying his life, he's giving them all back. And he's done a lot of terrible things. And that's great. But he owns 70 newspapers. And so yeah, which one of those newspapers are going to write a bad story about him? And Jeff Bezos controls one of the biggest newspapers in the country, if not the biggest, and they aren't going to write anything bad about Amazon. And so I have a real problem with with this kind of system. And I think there there there used to be, are you familiar with the even something like the fair time I forget what it's called now, it's the fair Time Act where basically you had each political age side had the same amount of time on air. Yeah. So that was taken down by Ronald Reagan, which was part of the whole impetus for so many of these conglomerations, and all these corporations to break down. So when, if you look at the history and look at what happened here, when Reagan was in office, it started out with those 50 corporations. And by the time George HW Bush came into office, we were already down to, you know, 25, and then six, and it just was a downward spiral. Because at that point, I was like, oh, okay, now we can just buy up all these other people. There's no limit to how many corporations and how many news senators we can own. We can just buy them all. And let's just be this one monolithic voice. And there needs to be something that's done about that. Because things like this happen. Now, Gretchen, I'm gonna do a pop quiz for you. Are you ready? Yeah, I'm gonna see how, see how accurate you are with with the New York Times came out recently with an article about how people just didn't understand what was happening with COVID. And the amount of people the how many people actually need to be hospitalized. So what are the chances of somebody with COVID being hospitalized, and you can go anywhere from 0% to 100%? Someone gets COVID. What are the odds that they're going to be hospitalized?

Gretchen Hurd 32:59

I would think I would think it'd be somewhere between like, eight and 10%.

Ray Abel 33:07

Okay, so you it's actually that's the category that I think was most, mostly the same between Democrats, Republicans and independents. So 14% of Democrats said that 15% of Republicans and 13% independents said that the actual number is somewhere between one and 5%. Wow, it's actually pretty low. And that's actually including all of the older people. So if you get rid of that the numbers

really low, really low. But when you look at the stats, 41% of Democrats thought it was 50% and up 15% And up

Gretchen Hurd 33:39

to 50% of your friends go to the hospital like,

Ray Abel 33:43

right, well, that's that's what they find. 28% of you, but even even Republicans, 28 of Republicans, 20% of Republicans thought that and 35% of independents thought that now. Wow. The only people who are the people who got it right, the one to 520 6% of Republicans got it right. 20% of independents got it. Right. And 10% of Democrats got it right. And actually, it was more of the probably the most interesting thing to me, it was the people who said 0%, or less than one basically, Democrats had two independent said three and Republicans had 4% say that that was the case. So actually, all of them are much the same. So it was near like as zero to 1%. Now, you and I think it's funny to me, because when you listen, the media on the left, they say that Republicans are all anti science, and they don't believe it exists. And it's this huge thing. It was only two, three and 4%. They're all within 1%, which is a margin of error. So and I don't think many people are believing that it just doesn't exist. Right. But it's crazy to me that overall 40% of Democrats and 28% of Republicans thought that over 50% of people who got COVID must be hospitalized. That's just not

Gretchen Hurd 34:47

that's a huge number of people. Right? I just know that's wild.

Ray Abel 34:53

I don't think it's a it's not a surprise to me based on the way the media covers it. And that goes back to what I was saying in the the opening monologue that it's all about, you know what's going to sell. It's how do we keep people engaged? Because like you said, if you actually watch the news throughout the day, it's the same thing. Yeah. When you watch Rachel Maddow, it's her talking about collusion, collusion, collusion, when you watch Sean Hannity, he's saying the Chinese Communist Democratic Party, it's just the same stupid things are both Maddow and Sean Hannity say, are just so frustrating. Now, there are news people throughout the day where they, you know, have some actual news, but in general, it's like, Alright, how do we take this little bit of information that's out there and make it last 24 hours?

Gretchen Hurd 35:34

Direction? Yeah, that's what they're doing. Yeah. Yeah. See, was the first one you're Oh, go ahead.

Ray Abel 35:39

I was just gonna say CNN was the first 24 Hour News Source. And now we have like, eight of them. And so yeah, now they're all competing. It's not only do you have to figure out 24 hours news, but how do you get more people to watch you and if you can make people afraid, whether that's Fox News, making people afraid that immigrants are going to take over the US and jobs or whether that's CNN saying you're going to die of COVID, and Republicans want to kill you. That's what gets people to tune in and say, Yeah, I'm going to get involved in this. And I'm going to I'm going to keep watching you,

because I hate those nasty Republicans and those nasty Democrats to and it's all pitting us against each other. And it's just so unbelievably frustrating to me.

Gretchen Hurd 36:18

Yeah. Yeah. I think when it comes to stuff like, well, even just COVID. I mean, NPR usually does like a, an update every day about numbers in the United States and the world like, and BBC usually does a larger commentary on on what's happening in other countries. And I think that's really important, because I think that's not what we're getting on our, in our news media, because they're so focused on us. But it makes you realize that everybody's having the same problem. And we're not kind of dealing with this alone. The one thing that I think, has helped me kind of get the right information when it's come to the COVID is that Pennsylvania has a, an app that breaks down COVID numbers by county, and I think even by city so that you're seeing where, where COVID is more prevalent, and even deaths. And I think actually, whenever I said eight to 10%, I thought, I don't even know if this is acting, like if it's too high, or if it's too low. Because I haven't checked the app in about a week and a half after I got my COVID shot. I was like, I'm free. No, I haven't really think that but um, but I did stop looking at it as as often as I did. But I wonder how many other states have that and how many people have done it? I know that a lot of people were like, I'm not doing that. Because then you'll have my information. And then I don't want you to have my information. I was like, on they already have your information.

Ray Abel 37:51

Yeah, I mean, I'll be honest, I did get the vaccine. And I still like they had UPMC keep sending me reminders to let them know that I got it. And I haven't done it yet. Because in general, I think when it comes I want the I want people to know the least amount of information possible about me. And I know I just said it on a podcast here. So anyone listening would know, but in general, I, I don't my information written down. And so I think I just don't want people to know this. But I will say this is the part two that frustrates me with COVID. You know, I was talking to a friend of mine who is actually tends to be lean liberal, not progressive, liberal, and was pretty frustrated with the way the media has covered things since Biden's got into office because we actually are killing it. Like, overall, we have done an amazing job. I think over half the people who are open for vaccinations have vaccinations. We talked about this before West Virginia was leading the way for a while there's so many good things happening with the vaccine rollout in America. And I think there are I mean, we're not making I don't wanna make this a vaccine thing, because there are people who have serious considerations about we there's all these things where people have to make their own choices. But overall, we're doing better than most, if not all the countries in the world in this vaccine rollout. And I will be the first person to talk about how much Donald Trump's way of talking about the vaccine in some ways, and some of the things he did, there were just, he was never presidential about what he was saying. But he did do some good things with the vaccine rollout. And now Joe Biden, it's every politician, this isn't a Joe Biden thing. Yeah, but every politician wants to take credit for what they didn't do good. And they want to get blamed for what they didn't do. That was wrong. And we are leading in this vaccine rollout. And I think that that's one of the things that bothers me when I think that if the media would have covered Trump fairly on the left, and this is not this is not Fox News. Fox News was way too easy on him. But on the left, if they would have covered him just straight and said, Here are the things that he's doing well, and here are the things that he says yeah, things that sound ridiculous, these issues. I don't think there would have been much of a change who voted for him? And in fact, I personally think that there would have been more people

voting against him based off of that, because when you hear only the negative things, but you see around you okay, well actually wait a second, not all my friends are dying from COVID. And we do have a vaccine coming. And I thought these things were supposed to take three years. And, you know, the media saying no, no, don't mean he didn't do anything good. But he was president, and he, you know, happened to be there when it was happening. And I think that if you would have just looked and said, Okay, let's, let's, this is what I have, whether it was Obama and Fox News, or Trump on any of the liberal stations, and this goes back throughout all the presidents just go after them equally. I want FoxNews to ask Donald Trump hard conversations and hard questions, just like I want CNN to go hard after Joe Biden, because these people are leading our country. There are things that they're going to do that, you know, I think if you look at Trump's history, there's a lot of liberals who would be, you know, potentially happy to see what he did in prison reform very small things, but it was better than some of the things that happen. And if you look at conservatives, looking at Joe Biden, I mean, just you can he just he, it's so nice not to have someone who's fighting up there every day. And now he still says things that are like frustrating to me as a president. Like, I think that Trump has now set the bar so low for what the what you can and can't say, as President. And now Biden has kind of slipped into this hole like, Well, I'm not as bad as Trump kind of thing. But at the core of it, you can listen to him and go, Alright, I'm not as I'm not as embarrassed and most of the

Gretchen Hurd 41:32

sentences and isn't yelling at me, but

Ray Abel 41:36

I actually gonna bite my tongue and move on from that. Because I well, and I think this is the thing though, at the same time, that's where I went CNN to go after him for calling Yeah, publicans, Neanderthals. And yeah, that's the kind of thing where like, Trump may have done it in a more vocal way and his Twitter sharp like a teen teenager, and it was very frustrating to me. But hearing someone like Joe Biden in office saying, the Neanderthals in the party are killing people. And when you look at the actual stats with states like Texas, and Florida, two months ago, when they opened up, we heard that was gonna be the end of it, all these things, were gonna be spiking, everything was gonna be terrible, the world was gonna end. And those numbers have continued to go down. And we have played problems in places like Michigan, which has been locked down the entire time. And so that's where I want the news media. And this goes back to journalism, like when when Trump goes up there, and it says offensive things. It even gets down to the point of when you talk about law and order, I saw a really good documentary about why there's a lot of racial backing behind what when you say that there's like a real racial talking point there. And you're trying to kind of, I don't think I personally don't think that's why Donald Trump was saying, I don't think he actually cared much about history. I don't think you knew about it. But someone around him should have been saying, Hey, this is, this is why that's not good. This is why you should be changing what you say. And so every time he said something that I just I just got frustrated. But when I hear Biden doing things and saying things like that about Republicans, it's just the same. It just seems like

Gretchen Hurd 43:09

these are yeah, there's there has to be a standard. And I think the standard just took a nosedive. And now everybody's just playing the game. And I I don't I don't like it at all. So whatever. Anytime I would

hear it, I would just go straight past it. I don't even want to hear it anymore. You know, it just seems like this macho man kind of talk. And I can't I don't like that in general in everyday life. So I really don't want to see it from the President of the United States. It just seems counterproductive. It makes it alienates people, it makes people not feel like they belong, you know, and it can't, it was disheartening for me, because he came out saying I want to be everybody's President, I want I want and it's like, Yes, that's what we want. That is what we want, we want somebody that's just going to be here for all of us, you are going to do the job that we hired you to do. And and there's not going to be any drama. I think everybody was so sick of the drama every day. It just was exhausting. And it was a scam, you know, things happening one after the other and you couldn't even keep up with it. So I think having him do that, and saying that really just was disheartening. And hopefully it was just a slip. And we can count it up to him just being an older guy that's just had a moment of, you know,

Ray Abel 44:24

I hope, but I

Gretchen Hurd 44:25

hope that that was what it was.

Ray Abel 44:28

I think it's interesting because like, it's I will defend Biden for everything he does well, and I will I will still defend Trump for things that he did well, and I think that's the thing if I'm talking to someone who I tend to be able to have open conversations with people who don't talk and talking points, if all you're saying is what I hear on Fox News or CNN it's like the talking points. I know I'm probably not going to be able to have a rational decision with you. But there are good things and bad things that all presidents do. There's there's no one that's lined up on one side and bad To me, maybe different than bad to you, and it's all about trying to figure out what's happening. But I think the standards are so different and getting back on to the topic of Yeah, the news and when we cover people, you know, everything that's happening up in I mean, there's so much going on right now. There's, there's there's so much happening with shootings with Derrick Chauvin trial all of these things. And did you hear about I can't think of her name right now. The woman, she's that Maxine Waters, who went up to Michigan yesterday to March next to the protesters? No, I didn't. This, you probably won't, if you listen to mostly liberal sides of things. She went up there and was marching with protesters and said, it basically I'm paraphrasing here, but she said, if we if we don't get the outcome that we want from this trial, you're gonna have to keep getting in people's faces and telling them that it's wrong. And so she is a sitting Congresswoman who is going and saying, keep on doing what you're doing keep on, you know, protesting and wrote, they're not we're not the choosing more than protesting get up in people's faces, but she was actually calling for if it wasn't a first degree murder, indictment or charge. So if he didn't get first degree murder, then we should keep he's not even being charged with that. So right there, we have a sitting congressperson who's saying if you don't get an outcome that we want to keep on doing this, which is kind of like incitement of a riot, which let me be very clear about this. I am not saying like a lot of the people on the right are saying that, you know, kick her out of Congress and she shouldn't be allowed to speak and all that. You look at though someone that like a Marjorie Taylor green and a Lauren bowburn Who are two Republican Congress, women that I don't like what they stand for. I don't like that. Marge Taylor Green was a que anon person. I don't think that Lauren Barbara is just kind of

offensive. He really has. Yeah, in general. But that gets covered on CNN, but not Fox News. No one on Fox News is talking about how crazy Marjorie Taylor green is because they don't want to alienate any other base. And no one on CNN is talking about how crazy it is for a congresswoman to say keep writing, unless we get a murder charge that isn't even on the dockets. Which, at the very core of it, there are gonna be people who say we didn't get first degree murder. No, that's what we wanted, even though that's not even what's on the tape out there. Yeah. Right. And so like I want, and this is this, what it all goes back to is I want the media to be able to say, here is the information, not, you know, this person is a terrible person, they are racist, this person hates America. Here's what this person said. And here's the context of how they said it. And here's the whole clip of what they said, now you decide if you want to vote this person in office again or not. And so whether that's Maxine Waters, you know, the matt gates, which I'm just gonna, I'm gonna say this about Matt gates. I don't think I don't know anyone who likes Matt gates. Personally, I don't know of any of my conservative friends who liked Matt gates. And it's really frustrating as someone who tends to be conservative to hear things like, well, you know, we have this crazy person, but you have Matt gates, it's like, I don't I don't play Matt gates. I don't like Matt gates. He's always seemed like one of those arrogant people who came from a lot of money. And he's got this, like, just this, this, I should be here because I have this kind of power. And he said, to me, has been a terrible congressperson. He's only been in it for himself. And I don't like him. And I most of

Gretchen Hurd 48:26

my every time he opens his mouth, he like incriminates himself even more like, I mean, he's just talking right? Just stop talking. Right? What are you sure? You're right.

Ray Abel 48:36

Yeah. And I mean, it looks like, we'll see. Yeah, I still, I still do believe in due process. So we'll see what happens. But it seems like an indictment may be coming. But do not put any conservative in with Matt gates. And when you look at, like Twitter, and when you look at all these places, it tends to be this back and forth, where it's like, okay, so Well, you know, Biden said this well, yeah, but now do Trump talk about what Trump said? And they'll be like, Great, yeah. But then Biden said this, and it's like, no, can we just say that when Biden says Neandertals? Let's condemn that. Okay. And when Yeah, let's not it's okay. And when Trump talks about, like, you know, I don't have there's 1000 different examples. On Twitter. I guess you can't anymore. But look through his Twitter and just go man, a president should not be doing this. Let's condemn how he looks like a teenage person on this this Twitter feed. Yeah, we can condemn both those things the same time. And that's it

Gretchen Hurd 49:27

too. It's like why can't you have more than one be I think people try to put everybody in boxes and it's just not that is also counterproductive because you're you're not listening to people then. And and, you know, a lot of people will just totally push somebody to the side and say, Well, you don't you believe this? So you can't possibly think this or if you believe that you can't possibly think this and it's like, I can hold two viewpoints on two things at the exact same time. And I don't, you know, yeah, it just seems it just it's a way to shut people down and deal with atomize someone, so you see this a lot on social media. And I think it really comes down to how that person views people with other just other decisions that are, you know, their decision making process and how they look at other people that have different

viewpoints. So I think it's, it says a lot about other people's consumption of their media and how you can tell where people are getting their news from simply by the way they interact with you. So I think a lot of people it's they get into their rabbit hole, like you were saying, like, people just kind of get down their own little rabbit hole. And then they they have very little care for anyone else's viewpoint if differs from theirs. And I know that it's like just been the last like few years that I have really tried to not dismiss someone simply for having a different viewpoint than me and I, you know, we all kind of get I was saying this earlier, like, we go through ebbs and flows, like you get on social media, and you really want to, like be the, you know, the fighter, and you want to, like, just stand for something and you feel all empowered. And then the second someone like challenges you, you just kind of lose it, because it feels so personal. So I feel like there is a moment where you have to kind of look inside yourself and say, Is this really what I want to show the rest of the world because this is not who I am. And I went through that. And it's like, I am the super bubbly person. And people were like, Whoa, you are like going at it. And I'm like, Dude, that is not at all who I am. And so I had to really step back, and pay attention to really who I was and pay attention to how I was putting myself out there. I would like actually to say that, you know, whenever we're kind of talking about our news consumption and how mine is changed, I started listening to when I was I got kind of over a Rachel Maddow. And so I started listening to a site called The Best of the Left. And so it was a podcast where they would pick from left leaning articles or left leaning news stations, and they would just pick the best. So it was it was segments from these podcasts or whatever. And through that I found David Pakman. Shout out David Pakman. And I really do enjoy his podcast. And the reason that I enjoy it, I don't actually agree with him 100% of the time, but I enjoy his viewpoints. He's an economist, he was an economist he went school for. And I think he's just really brilliant when it comes to that kind of stuff. But I love the way he does not he doesn't pull punches with whoever is in office. He He's talked a lot about Joe Biden and the problems. And he's he's really frustrated with the news media right now, too. So it's been really interesting to hear his commentary on his issues with the media and saying like, it is really important to look at, you know, smaller entities like us, and like him and smaller podcasts and independent media, because you're going to get less of the talking heads and drum and more of people who in your, you're still going to get bias, of course. And I look at him as and he actually even said this like couple weeks ago, which I thought was so perfect, because it's really embodies what I think of his podcasts, it's like, the the topping on the pizza, or it's like the spice on top of your entree, right? So it's you're not it you you're you're having all these different media that you're consuming, and different things out the way that you get your news and history and all these things. But you're not just consuming the thing that is so like you so then you are getting more of an education rather than just pumping yourself up with hate and anger and discontent with the other side.

Ray Abel 53:53

Yeah, I think it's I think it's so important to not just listen to the different news sources. But when you see something in the news, this is kind of going into what's next and what I think we should be doing. Yeah. I think we got to start thinking about ourselves, like we're back in high school again. And in high school, we always were told, you know, Wikipedia is not a real source of information you can't we have to look at new sources that if someone is someone comes to me, one of the things I'll do typically when I meet someone, especially if I don't know anything about politics, and they start talking politics right away, I don't care if they're conservative or liberal. Typically someone who's very open about talking politics either doesn't really know what they believe or why they believe it. And that's I think the majority

of people who are very open about politics. I think the wiser people tend to be a little more quiet. I tend to jump into politics and like to think I know what I'm talking about. But I'm I think I'm a very rare exception to the rule. And I think it'd be talked a lot of people they would say I'd have no idea what I'm talking about. But I think what I do often is I played dumb at first and I find out why people believe what they do. So if someone comes to me and they're anti Trump or they're anti Biden or they're anti Hillary or whoever it is, I told me about that. Why do you believe that? And it goes back to what I said earlier, if if they're using talking points, and if that's all they're using, I don't really value that opinion. And I think that there are a lot of people that if they tend to agree, if it's someone, if I'm a Hillary supporter, and someone comes up and says, like, wow, Trump's terrible, like, Hillary is the person I would have voted for. It's like, yes, and we just get into this, like, oh, it's someone like me, and you hate that guy. And so you and me are friends now, and let's share why we love her. And it's, it becomes that it's the, it's our own personal algorithm. It's the Facebook algorithm in person, we're gonna keep being around people who who talk like we do, and get excited about it and share with them. And we're only sharing that same information back and forth. And so I like to hear someone that maybe takes a little while to get it out that they know about politics, but those people are tend to be the ones that are more reserved and in the middle and are able to have conversations. What I think about myself that I that I like is the fact that I've had some very what other people would say are very difficult conversations or conversations very difficult people. And I've been able to have them because I enjoy actually listening to what other people are saying. And I feel like if you listen to what other people are saying, and have done your research, people aren't as confrontational. But if they're just two people talking and talking points, and you're Republicans are racist, and Democrats are socialists, and you hate America, if that's what you're saying to each other, you're never going to come to any kind of common ground.

Gretchen Hurd 56:31

No, but really what social media is all about?

Ray Abel 56:35

Right? And unfortunately, it's starting to happen in the real life as well. And I'll share one example actually, when it was it was the time that it was it was during the election with Trump and Hillary. And I was out with this girl I was dating in Philadelphia, and one of her friends who I'd never met before is like, oh, Ray, I've heard so much about you, like, great to meet you. Who are you voting for? And I was like, Oh, my goodness, really? Like we just met like, and she had, she had a few drinks. I'm like, Okay, this is God. She's Interesting. Well, no, no, I found out that that was oh, I mean, she's she was like that when she's sober, too. But they the alcohol didn't help. And I was like, Well, I actually I said, I don't really want to talk about that. It seems like I it's probably not going to be a good conversation. Conversation. Why you voting for Trump is like, No, I didn't say that. I don't I'm not a I'm not a Trump fan. And she was like, were you voting for Hillary? Like, No, I didn't say that. I'm on a Hillary fan. I didn't say any of these things. I just I don't You seem like you're looking for a right answer. And I, if I say, Hillary, I'm pretty sure you're gonna be excited about that. And we're not going to have a real conversation, because you're just going to see me as one of you. And if I say Trump, then you're gonna see me as the other. And if I say, I don't even know if I'm voting for anyone at this point, which at that time, that's exactly, yeah. And she finally forced Alameen said, who you voted for is like, I think I might actually vote third party this year. And she was like, that's a vote for Trump. And she started like getting mad at me. And I said, Look, I was like, I am not a fan of Hillary. And you know, I said, I if it was

someone else, and I think I may even at the time, said, Joe Biden, because at the time, I would have, I would have probably voted for him. And I was in I was like, if you were to protect Bill Clinton, I was like, I think he's a terrible human being. But he was a good president. He actually got things done. There were a lot of errors that he made in policy. But look, that's also looking back the lens of history. And she was like, Well, that's because you're a misogynist. I was like, I can't come in here. I was like, geez, I was like, There's no way no matter what I say it's going to be wrong here. And I was like, This is exactly why I didn't want to talk to you. So I went from being a racist when she thought I was voting for Trump to being a misogynist when I said I didn't like Hillary, but I would have maybe voted for like Joe Biden or Bill Clinton, and that that became like, I was a misogynist. So anyway, my point is, then that I think that was the point where I started playing dumb. And I just I would say, you know, I'm, I like to hear what other people think I, I won't lie. So I won't say like, I don't care about politics, but I'll say yes to what other people think, what do you think, and try to get down and see what they believe. But I think we have to go back to real sources. And real sources are not our friends who listen to CNN and Fox News, real sources are not Huffington Post or the Daily Caller, any of these right, right wing wing groups like real sources are, let's take a look at a news headline, even in the AP or writers and say, Alright, let's look up where this poll came from, who actually conducted this poll, because if it's a conservative group, it's probably going to steer conservative, it's a liberal group, it's probably gonna steer liberal. And I feel like that's what we need to do as citizens because I think it really is I can't express enough how frustrated I am with us as people not being willing to stand up and say this is not okay. And I don't want to attack all of my fellow Americans and that's how I think political or My fellow Americans, but it's really disgusting me to see us attack each other and I love having conversations with my friends who are black I had a conversation with a friend of mine who was transgender after our, our conversation last week because I wanted to see I said, if you listen, I want to know, did I say something offensive? Is there something there that I change? I want to know what people think even if I, even if I, I can't understand what it's like to be transgender, I can't understand what it's like to be black. But I want to be able to find out why. Why what it's like, and by by talking to people and talking to people who have lived this. And when I talk to people who've lived it, my friends who are black, they I don't know any of them who hate cops and want them to die. And are. That's not the majority of people. When I talk to my friends who are cops? I don't know any of my friends who are cops that are racist people. Now. I will say, we talked about this earlier, I do think there's something to be said about certain cops not having their job. I mean, clearly what happened? Yeah. The guy this week, or a couple of I guess it was a couple months ago, but the lieutenant who was pulled over and pepper sprayed, if you look at that situation, and this is this is kind of what I'll wrap up on because I think this is one specific instance, when we look at what happened in that instance, from the media's perspective, you watch Fox News, and it was all about well, he didn't get out of his car. He should have he should have just listened. When I talked to friends of mine, that it's tough when you talk to friends of yours who are black, who talk about how afraid they can be of cops. Yeah, what they go through on a typical traffic stop and what what is going through their mind. So when I look at that, I don't see it as Wow, he's way out of bounds and he shouldn't like held his door closed. If someone's coming at me with a gun drawn and yelling at me telling me I'm going to ride the light. The

Gretchen Hurd 1:01:50

Yeah, the lightning. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ray Abel 1:01:53

I'm going to be afraid. And I talked to you about this earlier, when I was 16 or 17 years old. I think it was 17. I had a cop I was a sheriff's deputy who pulled a gun on me for pulling into the wrong parking lot trying to get to a driving range. friend and I were in the car. And he immediately came out the gun drawn made a stroke his ID. I don't think any of this was legal. But we also didn't have any kind of recourse like I wasn't gonna call the cops because it was the cops to me. Yeah, there are certain people who should just be out of law enforcement. I watched that video. And I see a scared black man who is clearly scared because he was on a country road followed by a cop and has seen everything that's been happening in the news. I can understand why he's afraid. I

Gretchen Hurd 1:02:33

drove to a really well lit location because he was like, I need to be somewhere safe. Yeah. And he was right

Ray Abel 1:02:40

looked at what happened with the cops. You know, I will say that in general, cops having some fear, I think is warranted. If you look at it, I mean, this week, we talked there was a guy up in New York, there was a copy of bleach thrown in his eyes and Molotov cocktails thrown from a car there was a trooper that got shot and had this week there all these things that make cops,

Gretchen Hurd 1:02:58

you know, rightfully, were really dangerous. Yeah.

Ray Abel 1:03:02

But in in that situation. It's interesting. The media went to a white man pulling a gun and a black man, turning into this race thing, Fox News was downplaying the fact this black man should have just got out of the car and listened. And it was actually thinking about it. Yeah, instead of talking about the hours Hispanic man who pulled the pulled the gun out and was yelling, and if you look at the video and actually watch it, the white cops seem to be way more reasonable. And if it was just him, and I talked to friends of mine who were black, and they said same thing. And so if it was him, it probably would have been calmed down, it wouldn't been a big deal. But that older cop was the one causing the problems, and he should be fired. And I think, is it because he was racist? I don't know. He seemed like he was racist. But at the very minimum, even if he wasn't a racist guy, you should not act like that and pull a gun out. You don't need to do that. And so he should be gone. And I think the conversation will come to training and why are there only like two weeks of training? When cops start using guns, we can talk about why cops can be I mean, maybe it's an age thing. That guy has been a cop for probably 2030 years versus the young guy who was handling it better. So what what age do we say, hey, take a year sabbatical like we do with teachers. Time off and make sure we're getting mental like mental

Gretchen Hurd 1:04:17

health counseling. You and I are the same way like Yeah, exactly. Yeah, you were when you were telling this story to me earlier, I actually remembered my ex husband had one time we were driving up into our local shopping plaza, and he got pulled over for speeding. And he had an Obama sticker on the on the bumper of his car at the back of his car. And the cop came up, gave him you know, is like give

me your license registration. He was young, he's really young guy. And he went back to his car and got the information whatever came back gave, he got off the ticket. He always got off tickets. I don't know how he did that every time. But when the guy was walking back to his car he like look looked at the bumper and he turned around and came back. And he started grilling him about why he voted for Obama. This is a guy standing there with a gun. He's like, and I remember him saying, I took it, I handled it poorly. He's like, I was like, I'm really uncomfortable with this conversation. I'm very uncomfortable. Can you please go back to your vehicle? You know, and he Jay, like, James was just like, please leave, you know, are we finished? Can I please go? Can I please go and ended up you know, calling the chief of police because he knew him and and, you know, basically was like this happen, you know, which was really crazy. But at the same time, it's like, how I mean, he felt uncomfortable in that moment. And it was probably very innocent, from the view of the officer, but really, really inappropriate. And not at all his place. And, and the guy was, like, I just want to know, I just want to know, and he's like, I'm really, you know, really uncomfortable. But you almost wonder. And it puts you into that mindset of I'm a white man sitting here with a white man having this conversation, if I were any other kind of minority, a woman, black woman, a black man, how different would this conversation go? Would he be comfortable doing this to me if I wasn't a white man? So these are all things that we were like, trying to figure out, like, after the fact. And it really shook us both, because we were like, not understanding what in the world this guy was even thinking, but it goes to like training. Like you were just saying, you know, why did he feel that that was an appropriate thing for him to do in that moment? Why or why do the you know, what kind of training are they going through? To make for a traffic stop? What is something and and the repercussions of doing something like this? So yeah, when you were saying about it, I just had that memory kind of flashed back at me. And it really does go to training for me, for cops. And and I think I think even this is like, yeah,

Ray Abel 1:07:01

accountability, and also to mental health. I really, we talked about this when when Hannah was on the show, mental health does not get enough smiles country. And I do think that I mean, number one, I think if you talk to most conservatives, the most moderate conservative, they would say that that's ridiculous. And I would say that's ridiculous to yell at. So I don't care if he was talking about it was a Hillary bumper sticker. Trump bumper sticker over, just keep it up. You're a cop. Just do your job. Yeah,

Gretchen Hurd 1:07:30

man. Stay in your lane. I

Ray Abel 1:07:31

think that goes back to there. I mean, again, I have friends who are cops and I have the same. I think it goes back. I think this is getting away from cops specifically. And again, this all goes back to I mean, we're kind of going off topic here. But yeah, I think we talked about this earlier working in retail, I worked at Best Buy. And we always had these loss prevention guys, the guys that were in security, and there were some loss prevention guys that came into their job, watch cameras and left and did a good job. And then there were some who thought they were like the FBI. And so get in there and be like, let me see your back. Let me watch us. I had a guy one time as a joke. I found out I after I left working there, I was talking to this customer service agent. He told me the new security guy was like really intense. And I had bought a toaster oven for my grandfather. And I told her like, watch this. I walked

out. And the guy was like, let me see your receipt. And I was like, no, because they don't have to, like actually buy. He followed me to my car. He like called the police on me, which I didn't know. But later on, like the police actually came and like the girl from customer service. And I was like, No, he bought that. Like, why wouldn't you check with us first, but I think about that is like okay, yeah, that is typical. There are some people that come in and do their jobs and do it. Well. I think that's majority of people. And there are people like that who need to get weeded out from loss protection of Best Buy as well as the police force. And I think that's a different topic. The the whole point of it, though, is the way the media portrayed it if you're watching Fox News, it's the it's the lieutenant's fault. And not everyone said that to be clear, but like that was the general consensus. This seems terrible. But he should have complied. And you watch CNN and it's, well, there's those racist cops. And none of that is going to lead to any solutions. And until we stand up as people and say, This is not okay. We're going to stop watching Rachel Maddow, we're going to stop watching Sean Hannity, we want people in there that are not like this. We want people in there that are actually doing journalism, it's going to keep being the same thing. And eventually it's going to get out of control. And we're not going to be able to bring it back in. It's already been let out of the box. And I think the third or the fourth estate has already fallen but I think we can get it back. But we have to we have to stand up as people and say, Alright, we're gonna there's one boycott and one canceled culture I'm all about its canceling the fake news. I'm gonna use that word on both sides. And that to me, is

Gretchen Hurd 1:09:47

all of this corporate media so it's just the echo chambers. Yeah.

Ray Abel 1:09:51

It's those echo chambers. So that's, that's um, I think that was an interesting it was a it was a new it was a new style of putting Cast episode for us. But yeah, me what's next? I think we should play dumb and find out what other people think. Because we started engaging with them and research everything and go to real sources for you, if you could wrap it up in 10 or 15 seconds, yeah, one more way of moving forward from this

Gretchen Hurd 1:10:17

for me, and it's really how media literacy, I want to get better at media literacy and doing a better job for myself. So I want to read more books on history, I want to consume more news that is has more of a center, leaning more Associated Press. And I think actually, I'm going to kind of probably follow your lead. And Reuters, I've always noticed has been a good source. So I think I may, I may purchase an online subscription now. So I think, like, I've, I've been really proud of myself, and I think it's been our podcasts, it's really pushed me in this direction. But I feel like more people should do it more people should have more a conscious decision over their media consumption and get off of Facebook, quit posting weird things and yelling at people through Facebook, because it just does not do anything ever gonna

Ray Abel 1:11:11

change mind

Gretchen Hurd 1:11:11

now, never gonna change your mind.

Ray Abel 1:11:13

And I will say, I think that when we talk about, like, the podcast again, look at all the articles that we looked up, I find it fun. I know most people do not find researching and news fun, but we need to do more of it, especially if you're gonna share it. I think that, like we talked about before, before you post something angry on Facebook, there should be a little message that says, Hey, are you sure you want to send this sense? I feel like when you share something, it says, Are you sure that this is actually real? Did you do some research yourself? Is this out of your comfort zone? Yeah, but alright. Moving forward. We're going to talk about last week, which is kind of a conundrum. But last week, since we normally talk at the beginning of the show about what we talked about last week, we mentioned that we are talking with Dr. Jeff Scott about transgender athletes. And I do want to make a clarification. Two things Number one, first off, I love Jess, we I feel like she's great. One of the things I like about this podcast in general, what I enjoy in life is talking to people that on paper, you would think that, okay, these people probably aren't going they're gonna be like oil and water. And I look at myself as a straight white male, who tends to lean conservative and some things with a left, which I think she's had left of progressive gender studies professor. I think that on paper, you go while these people, they're not going to get along. After the show, we are going to go shooting some time we talked about that we're going to go she's never shot a gun before. And I'm going to take her shooting some time. And I think we may actually film it if we're up for it for the show and see how that goes. But I really appreciate having her on. There was one part where I just want to clarify, we were both right. We were just right at different times. So there was I there was a point where we talked about just for listeners who have tuned in last week, there was a part where there was a disagreement about when are the guidelines for transgender athletes in the Olympics. And I had said that it was 10 animals per liter or under for testosterone. And that was the only requirement. And just Dr. Scott had said that he had to have gender reassignment surgery and she was right. But that was as of the 2004 Olympics and 2015 they switched over to the new setup. So again, that's great times,

Gretchen Hurd 1:13:27

but I mean, that was that was a big moment where I was like, dear lord. Yeah, so that makes me happy. I mean, it's still not great. But that does make me happy that that is no,

Ray Abel 1:13:37

it has changed that is updated. That's not the case anymore. So I just want to make make sure for clarification for listeners. And every week we end with a one good thing and I actually didn't discuss who was going this week because I have one good thing to go with. Are you ready for this? Oh,

Gretchen Hurd 1:13:51

yes. Do it. So

Ray Abel 1:13:52

weird thing I went to the dentist actually was about 101 days ago. I can tell you because my hygienist yelled at me for not flossing enough. And she was she was an older woman and she was tough. And she like tore me down. And she she told me I needed to floss. So I got this app called streaks that I use

for things like working out and reading and all of these things. I added flossing on there. And Gretchen this week. I hit 100 straight days of flossing. Good for you. Thank you 100 straight days of flossing.

Gretchen Hurd 1:14:26

I love that. And it's so funny when you it's 100 days of flossing, you could mean the dance move.

Ray Abel 1:14:32

Oh, yeah, I couldn't do that though. You're actually yeah, you've never seen that you would not want to see it. So that's the one

Gretchen Hurd 1:14:40

thing that's a big moment. For you never many

Ray Abel 1:14:43

days that I did not want to do it. Let's be clear about that. If I and you know what this all ties in. I didn't plan on this. But this all ties in if I can floss for 100 days, anyone listening to this, can research some news.

Gretchen Hurd 1:14:56

They're about to share. Yeah, so I agree. I agree.

Ray Abel 1:15:00

Alright Gretchen, Thanks for Thanks for Thanks for being Thanks, Ryan. Anything else we'll wrap up with?

Gretchen Hurd 1:15:05

No. Have a great day, everyone. All right.

Ray Abel 1:15:09

Well, thanks for tuning in and listening to research the news next week we're gonna have Michael Gungor on and we're talking about why people are leaving the church. If you're not familiar with Christian music, he's a very popular Grammy nominated singer. And we're gonna he had left the church so he was grown up in an event he grew up in an Evangelical Church left the church. Gretchen will not be on next week. She's actually off and we have Caitlin roar coming back on Kaitlyn is tends to be liberal. She's also a pastor who's now in a church. And I been involved in church for about 10 to 15 years, but I haven't gone regularly for a couple years now. So it should be an interesting conversation with a lot of viewpoints. And make sure you share the podcast. It's research the news.com All the links are there for our YouTube videos, our Facebook page and everything else. If you want to share it, that helps us out and also hopefully helps people understand we need to research the news. Journalism, Fourth Estate, I'm gonna throw out a bunch of buzzwords, I'm going to make my own language we need we need the Fourth Estate come back. Just wrap it up. Talk to you guys next week. See you then.