

Q. Has your experience in government and politics given you more respect for the news media, or less?

REPUBLICANS (84 votes)

More respect	21 percent
Less respect	63 percent
Other responses (volunteered)	15 percent



SPEAKER DENNIS HASTERT AND THE PRESS PACK

DEMOCRATS (86 votes)

More respect	22 percent
Less respect	61 percent
Other responses (volunteered)	16 percent

More Respect

"Reporters and editors are diligent in trying to sort the spin out of the news. Only a few reporters have a real agenda."

"The news media is, indeed, a major check on the abuse of government power."

"More respect for the individual reporters and editors who cover politics and strive to be eminently fair and professional. However ... I do think there is an institutional bias in the mainstream media that is more liberal than the nation."

Less Respect

"Although the press has an important role to play in our democracy, they do, for the most part, tend to be liberal, anti-Republican, but most of all lazy, undisciplined, and unwilling to present a balanced picture."

"Almost all believe in government solutions to every problem. They don't realize how liberal they are."

"It is simply shocking the lack of historical perspective the news media brings to their coverage of current events."

"TV reporters now believe that because they cover a story, their opinion is as important as telling the story. If they want to give their opinion on national issues, go run for office."

"It used to be a noble profession. Now it is driven by flash and misery."

"The level of hostility toward those involved in politics from the media has done nothing but increase."

"I respect my Democratic opponents much more than I do the media. They work harder, and they're trying to do something instead of just sitting on their butts and complaining about the process."

"The reporters get dumber and lazier every year."

"Print journalists are generally a much inferior lot than their predecessors. They know little about the dynamics of electoral politics, virtually nothing about the national body politic, and are too full of themselves and too dependent on the polls."

"Budgets have decreased and inches of news have decreased for in-depth reporting. Reporters ... have to be generalists, which makes them more subject to spin."

Other Responses

"My experience has given me enormous respect for some members of the press, and confirmed my worst suspicions about others."

More Respect

"The media has responsibly exposed some of the biggest scandals and worst abuses of power in our nation's history."

"The press is not nearly as biased as the vast right-wing conspiracy has made them out to be."

"I have more respect for the news media, because they act much like anybody else would act if in the same profession—the straighter you are with the media, the straighter the media will be with you."

Less Respect

"The mainstream news media has a bad case of a 'he said, she said' virus that forgoes any serious effort to expose the accuracy of competing claims. The right-wing cable and radio media continue to degenerate into increasingly shrill propaganda broadcasters."

"By way of example, the largest newspaper in my district recently dropped its D.C. stringer."

"The bottom line has gone from one factor among many to the only factor in the decisions of the mass media."

"The news media ... consist of very intelligent people that refuse to probe for effective or informative information from the ... Bush administration. Hurricane Katrina has finally served as some sort of impetus to obtain the facts the administration doesn't wish to be reported."

"If only political coverage was more like sports coverage, where journalists say if a team is lying, underperforming, or poorly coached."

"They were at one point the legitimate referees on all issues. Now they are either advocates (stretching the truth) or just letting one side of the other say what they want and just reporting it—being lazy!"

"The list of things that have become acceptable today ... would have been rejected wholesale by serious media outlets 25 years ago. These include beat reporters baldly and publicly expressing opinions and biases for money on TV and in speeches; stories appearing on the front page every day with single anonymous or no sourcing at all; creating and covering pseudo events ... as if they were real events."

"Too many want to be the next talking head; too many horse race stories; too much analysis; too little policing of their own; too fearful of being labeled liberal, too easily manipulated. All of this too often means that they do a poor job of covering major stories. Take the Iraqi war, for example. The media took a walk, and America is suffering unnecessary and very painful consequences because of it."

—PETER BELL