

**Guidelines for Term Paper
Television News Reporting
Fall 2007**

The term paper is due on or before Thursday, Dec. 6, between noon and 3 p.m. This is our Final Exam period. We will meet at noon to turn in and you're your Feature/Human Interest packages. Your "Bias" paper is also due at this time.

You are to write a 3-5 page double-spaced paper (minimum three full pages) on the Bernard Goldberg book, "Bias: A CBS Insider Exposes How the Media Distort the News." Your paper should address the following issues:

- Who is Bernard Goldberg? What is his background and perspective for writing this book?
- What exactly is "bias?" How does the author define bias? Is his definition of media bias consistent with how a dictionary defines bias?
- Define "liberal bias." When the author uses this phrase, what does he mean?
- Are there phrases or wording that some national news media use in "everyday reporting" that Goldberg contends indicates a liberal bias by the national news media? If so, cite examples of such wording/phrases.
- What does Goldberg assert or claim as having led the national news media, particularly CBS News, to present news (in some or many cases) in a slanted or biased way? Does he maintain there is a culture or environment in national media organizations that contribute to coverage that leans a certain way (i.e. left or liberal)?
- What evidence does Goldberg offer as far as the political persuasion of some or many journalists working in Washington or with national news media organizations?
- Document at least five examples the author gives of the way particular stories have been covered that the author cites to illustrate bias in news coverage by CBS News and other national news media.
- Include a part in your paper about Goldberg's attempts to talk to or communicate with CBS News management about his concerns over "biased" reporting. What was the response? What was Goldberg's response and subsequent actions that got him in "hot water" at CBS and eventually led to his departure from CBS?
- Share your personal views and reactions to the claims and issues raised in this book. Do you agree with Bernard Goldberg's claims about bias and/or liberal bias in the national news media?
- If you agree with the author that this problem exists, share your thoughts about how this problem can be corrected.
- Include other things that strike you or make an impression on you about the book.

Your paper should include a minimum of five quotations or citations from the book. After these citations, put the page number in parenthesis or use footnotes. Keep paragraphs short—just two or three sentences per—this greatly helps the flow and readability!

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