

*Dream of a Nation*  
**A News Media that Informs and Empowers**

**Article Questions***Infographic*

1. What are the ramifications of a majority, private ownership of news media?
2. Brainstorm several potential effects of the lack of local news media reporting in Washington.

*Media: A Told for Strengthening Democracy*

1. Why is mass media important as a political and cultural factor? How does mass media affect quotidian social reality?
2. What can be said about the economic and political significance of mass media?

*Making Coverage Count*

3. What obligations does mass media have, if any, to be educational rather than serve as entertainment?
4. Is the commercialization and tabloidization of the media an effect of contemporary culture or is it a response to societal demands?

*Focusing on Solutions*

5. How does popular opinion inform media and how does media work to inform public opinion?
6. Is there an asymmetric power relation between people and the media? What creates power and what challenges power in this relationship?

*Citizen Empowerment Through Journalism*

7. Are representations in visual and literary media reality or mere simulacra?
8. Is it possible for media to uncover real issues and propose real solutions? What are the potentials and what are the challenges of this expectation?

**Post-Reading Questions**

9. With so many different outlets for new media today, from social media to national and international news conglomerates, how can a consumer of media distinguish the quality and intent of information?
10. Is the internet really the opportunity for new methods of popular political participation? Identify how Lincoln Dahlberg, in his article, [\*The Internet, deliberative democracy and power: Radicalizing the public Sphere\*](#), understands the potential of the internet.