

## 18. Books, Newspapers & Magazines

Today we live in the Information Age. We get vital knowledge of all sorts from books, newspapers, magazines, television, radio, and the Web. But significant differences exist between print and electronic media. Certainly the latter are more immediate and more appealing to our senses, but the former are usually more reliable and thoughtful. I suppose this attitude comes from long familiarity; people tend to believe what they read, but they don't always trust their own senses.

Nevertheless, publishers and editors are often motivated by commercial interests. They may be perfectly willing to view their coverage to achieve their own private motives. Or they may pretend to know more than they do, and present stories based more on assumptions than facts. It is always important for info-consumers to maintain a skeptical, critical attitude toward their sources, no matter by which medium the message is delivered.

### Comprehension

1. What era do we live in?
2. What seem to be the main differences between the various media?
3. What should we be aware of?

### Your opinion

1. Do you prefer a morning paper or an evening one? Why?
2. What newspapers do you subscribe to? Why?
3. What magazines do you subscribe to? Why?
4. Which section do you read first in a newspaper?
5. Do you often read the so-called sports papers? Why or why not?
6. What is the most important reason why you read a newspaper?
7. What is the most important reason why you read magazines?
8. Do you believe everything you read in the newspaper? In a magazine?
9. Do you read every advertisement in the paper?
10. Do you trust what the ads say?



11. What kinds of ads do you think are most truthful?
12. Which is better to subscribe to, an on-line newspaper or one printed on paper?
13. What kinds of books do you read?
14. How often do you visit a bookstore?
15. Talk about the most impressive books you have ever read.

