

THE CONNORS INSTITUTE
MEDIA REPORT CARD

JANUARY 2024



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THE CONNORS LIST OF TRUSTWORTHY SOURCES

JANUARY 2024

*It is **important** for Americans to maintain a healthy media diet that offers an accurate account of the news of the day with limited bias. The outlets on our list of trustworthy sources below have recently been scrutinized by independent analysts using rigorous, objective, and rule-based procedures and found to demonstrate a pattern of generally accurate reporting with limited bias (see page 5 for our methodology).*

[ABC News](#)

[Anchorage Daily News](#)

[Arizona Daily Star/
Tucson.com](#)

[Associated Press](#)

[Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#)

[Axios](#)

[Baltimore Sun](#)

[BBC](#)

[Bloomberg](#)

[Buffalo News](#)

[CBS News](#)

[Charleston Gazette-Mail](#)

[Chicago Sun-Times](#)

[Chicago Tribune](#)

[Christian Science Monitor](#)

[Cleveland Plain Dealer/
Cleveland.com](#)

[Dallas Morning News](#)

[Defense News](#)

[Denver Post](#)

[Deseret News](#)

[Detroit Free Press](#)

[The Economist](#)

[Financial Times](#)

[Foreign Affairs](#)

[Foreign Policy](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[Heavy.com](#)

[The Hill](#)

[Honolulu Star-
Advertiser](#)

[Houston Chronicle](#)

[IndyStar](#)

[Kansas City Star](#)

[Las Vegas Review-
Journal](#)

[Live Science](#)

[Los Angeles Times](#)

[MarketWatch](#)

[Miami Herald](#)

[Military Times](#)

[Milwaukee Journal
Sentinel](#)

[NBC News](#)

[New York Times](#)

[NJ.com](#)

[Nola.com](#)

[NPR](#)

[Omaha World-Herald](#)

[The Oregonian](#)

[Orlando Sentinel](#)

[PBS](#)

[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

[Politico](#)

[ProPublica](#)

[Reuters](#)

[Roll Call](#)

[Salt Lake Tribune](#)

[San Diego Union-
Tribune](#)

[Seattle Times](#)

[SFGate](#)

[St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#)

[Stars and Stripes](#)

[StarTribune](#)

[STAT](#)

[Tampa Bay Times](#)

[The Tennessean](#)

[U.S. News & World Report](#)

[USA Today](#)

[Wall Street Journal](#)

[Washington Post](#)

[Wired](#)

Sources that fell short

*The outlets below have recently been scrutinized by independent analysts using the same rigorous, objective, and rule-based methodologies as the sources on our trustworthy list, but **the sources below missed the mark**: they have demonstrated a pattern of reporting with **too many inaccuracies** and/or **too much bias**.*

AlterNet	The Nation
American Greatness	New Republic
American Spectator	New York Daily News
American Thinker	New York Magazine
The Blaze	New York Post
Boston Globe	The New Yorker
Breitbart	Newsmax
CNN	Occupy Democrats
Common Dreams	One America News Network (OAN)
Daily Beast	Raw Story
Daily Caller	RedState
Daily Kos	Rolling Stone
Daily Mail	Salon
Daily Wire	San Francisco Chronicle
Democracy Now!	Slate
Drudge Report	ThinkProgress
Epoch Times	Townhall
The Federalist	Truthout
Fox News	Vice
The Gateway Pundit	Vox
Huffington Post	Washington Free Beacon
Infowars	Washington Times
The Intercept	WND (formerly WorldNetDaily)
Jacobin	The Young Turks
Jezebel	Zero Hedge
Mother Jones	
MSNBC	

METHODOLOGY

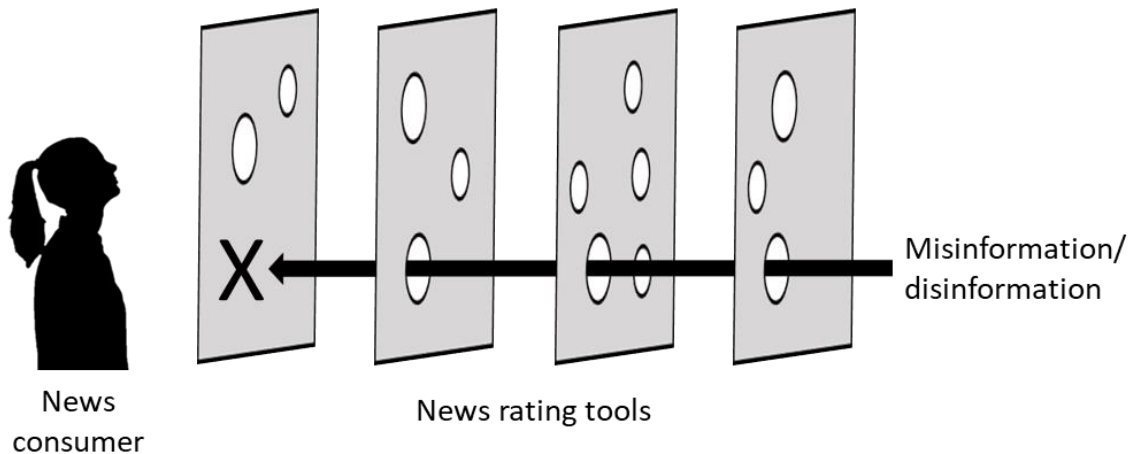
Information published by outlets we have labeled as “trustworthy” has been recently scrutinized by independent analysts using rigorous, objective, and rule-based methodologies. These analyses determined the content to contain limited bias and to generally score highly on measures of quality and reliability.

Here is our rubric for classifying media outlets as trustworthy. We disqualify an outlet from receiving our trustworthy designation if it fails in **any** of the following four areas:

1. All outlets must receive a passing grade from [NewsGuard](#) on all five of their credibility measures:
 - ⊕ *Not publishing false content*
 - ⊕ *Demonstrating responsible news gathering/presentation*
 - ⊕ *Making corrections/clarifications*
 - ⊕ *Demonstrating responsible news/opinion differentiation*
 - ⊕ *Avoiding deceptive headlines*
2. Outlets cannot be rated below a “32.0” by [Ad Fontes Media](#) on their vertical reliability axis.
3. Outlets cannot be rated as hyperpartisan by either [Ad Fontes Media](#) or [AllSides](#).
4. Outlets must not be deemed by [Connors Institute](#) researchers to have committed serious missteps in the areas of accuracy and/or bias in the past 12 months.

We consider using all four of these quality guardrails in conjunction to be akin to a “[Swiss cheese defense](#)” (see Figure 1 below). While it is possible that one of these organizations could make a mistake in their analysis of a particular media outlet, it is highly unlikely that *all four* would give an unreliable outlet high marks.

FIGURE 1. Connors Institute “Swiss Cheese” Defense Against Misleading Information



Source: Adapted from Ian Mackay’s Swiss cheese virology [infographic](#). Female silhouette from [pexels.com](#).

Page 1 image from [pexels.com](#)