

## Lesson 17 – The importance of the Freedom of the Press in a democratic society

The Freedom of the Press is critical in a democratic society to ensure that the government is held accountable, and the people are well informed. Think about the news you hear or read every day from social media, news outlets, television, or websites. The people who work in the media (like journalists and reporters) are like messengers. They find out what's happening in the world and share it with everyone. This is where the freedom of the press comes in. The press plays the following roles for a democracy:

**Keeps the Government Accountable:** In a democracy, the government is run by elected leaders who make decisions for the country. The press can watch what they're doing and tell the people if they're doing a good job or if they're making mistakes. This helps make sure the leaders are working for the people's benefit and not just for themselves.

**Helps People Make Informed Choices:** When you have lots of information from different sources, you can understand what's really happening in your country and the world. This helps you make smart choices when you vote or decide what you believe in.

**Encourages Open Discussions:** When the press can share different opinions, it encourages people to talk and think about important issues. This way, everyone can learn about different viewpoints and understand the reasons behind different opinions.

**Protects Rights:** If someone's rights are being ignored or taken away, the press can bring attention to it. This helps protect people's freedoms and keeps everyone safe.

Remember, just like how you want to hear everyone's ideas when deciding with your friends, a democracy wants to hear different thoughts and information from the press. This way, everyone can work together to make the best choices for the country.

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*Write a 100-word summary of the importance that the Freedom of Press in a democratic society. Use a highlighter to high each support to your main point. You should have at least three supports in your paragraph.*