ILLUSTRATOR ***PROTEZ***

– DISCUSSION GUIDE V –

WHY DOES LOCAL JOURNALISM MATTER?

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THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL JOURNALISM

Local journalism used to provide an outlet for sharing news and stories of rural areas and small cities, which also helped inform the national news. Over the past several decades we have seen a dramatic defunding and decline in newsrooms and media organizations.

Despite this, vibrant and revealing stories about the lives of citizens in rural areas, small cities, and urban neighborhoods happen daily. What do we lose when those stories are not told?

Local journalists play a significant role in the community. Without local journalism, there are less checks and balances on local public governance.

** Have you ever seen members of your community in the news? Why do you think that is? Have big events in your life or your neighborhood ever been shown in the media? On what platforms? How was it covered?*

Journalism serves an important role by :

- **ELEVATING THE VOICES AND STORIES OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES**
- **HOLDING THE POWERFUL ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE FOR HARMFUL ACTIONS AND DECISIONS/POLICIES**
- **BRINGING SOCIETAL ILLS TO PUBLIC VIEW**
- **OFFERING THE PUBLIC INFORMATION THAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE SELF-GOVERNANCE AND PRESERVING DEMOCRACY**

JOURNALISM AT THE SERVICE OF A COMMUNITY

Today, more and more readers are seeing content that affirms their point of view, rather than news stories that examine diverse sources and offer balanced representation. Local newsrooms can rebuild trust with their audiences by blending in-depth reporting with community engagement.

** Explained simply: When you're directly affected by an issue, you often know a lot about it. Engagement reporting is about giving those affected a platform to share information, experiences, and perspectives.*

RESOURCE # 15

CHALLENGING STEREOTYPICAL REPRESENTATION

The decline in local journalism, and local visual journalism in particular, diminishes the community's ability to see itself reflected in the news

Visual storytelling has a unique power to connect audiences emotionally to local issues, creating a common ground for dialogue.

Local journalism, and especially visual journalism raises the question of representation: how communities are portrayed. Local voices and perspectives are a way to challenge racial, socioeconomic, and cultural stereotypes and misrepresentations.

RESOURCE # 16

** For more about racism in photography, see*

Discussion:
1) How do you feel your community is portrayed by the national press? By the local media?
2) What media and reporting you have seen that represents and/or misrepresents you and your community?
3) What voices from your community do you think are missing in the local media? Why do you think they are missing?

RESOURCE # 17

JUNE 2020. SALINAS, CALIFORNIA.

The three Salvador brother: Hugo 7, left, Aldo 11, middle, and Jesus, 3 hang out in the living room space of their two bedroom apartment in Salinas, California. The living room is where Aldo and Hugo sometimes sleep next to their sister Resi since their uncle and wife recently moved into one of the two bedrooms in their apartment.

PHOTO : **DAVID RODRIGUEZ**
DAVID RODRIGUEZ IS A CL LOCAL FELLOW

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