

Renardo Johnson

Dr. Yung Soo Kim

JOU 330-002

5 November 2020

Reaction Paper: The Post

The Post is a movie that was made in 2017 that is about the release of the Pentagon Papers. The Pentagon Papers are the United States' Department of Defense history of political and military involvement during the Vietnam War.

The movie is about Daniel Ellsberg, a military analyst, discovering top-secret documents showing what actually went on during the Vietnam War. Katharine Graham, the owner of the Washington Post, has to decide whether or not she should publish the Pentagon Papers.

I thought the movie was really good. I liked how it showed how journalism is so important in society. Without journalism, we wouldn't know what was going on in the world. Freedom of the press exists so that journalists are allowed to report on things that are going on in the world. If the Pentagon Papers were never published, we might not have known what was truly going on during the Vietnam War.

I learned that the media business is just focused on making sure that the people know what's going on since it's first obligation is to the truth. One of the other elements of journalism that we learned in class was that journalism's first loyalty is to the citizens.

In order to have a functioning democracy, there must be journalism. Journalism allows for us to see things from other perspectives that might not have been seen before. There are several different functions of journalism in a democracy: journalism informs, analyzes,

interprets, and explains; investigates; creates conversation; helps generate social empathy; and encourages accountability.

This movie did change my view of journalism. Before watching this movie, society views journalism as liars, but in reality, journalists are just doing their jobs by reporting on the facts. The reason why people view journalists as bad people is in the movie when President Nixon is talking on the phone saying that no one from the Washington Post should ever be allowed in the White House ever again.

This movie shows how people view journalists, he was just mad that the truth was finally exposed and people knew what was really going on in the Vietnam War.

“If we live in a world where the government can tell us what we can and cannot print, then the Washington Post has already ceased to exist” (Ben Bradlee).

I found this quote very interesting because it shows how the government was trying not to follow what was written in the Constitution. They tried to get rid of journalism because they didn’t want the truth to get out to the public.

I thought that The Post was a really good movie. I liked how it captured what was actually going on. I think that without the Pentagon Papers being released, journalism might not be as prevalent in society like it is now.

It showed that without journalism, we wouldn’t know what is going on in the world. The government would probably be keeping even more things hidden that we would not know about today.

I think that this movie will affect my career because I will always be put under pressure to make certain stories. At the same time, I understand that as a journalist, I must deliver the news in an objective manner.

In this movie, it showed how journalists used to be so cautious when making decisions about posting a story. But then they remembered that journalists have to report the news, even if it goes against their beliefs, or hurts the government.

The Post showed that journalists shouldn't be afraid of taking risks. As a future journalist, I know that taking risks will be a part of everyday life. I will have to put my ego aside and report on things that the people must know.