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New Media Techniques

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Virtual Reality Journalism: The Dilemma Within Reality

 Within this article, the author discusses the idea of using virtual reality to transform the world of journalism; ultimately giving viewers a raw, real vision of the reporting. Through different perspectives, it is known that many people disagree with the idea that this tool could be helpful. Seeing and hearing a large explosion in a war zone, seeing the blood and hearing the screams, is this as helpful as impactful? I believe so, in a sense. I think, if we are sending these journalists into these areas to report on these situations that are virtually destroying places, cultures, families, etc. of our planet, the human race needs to be able to witness this horrific reality. Without the censoring aspect that allows us to take whatever viewpoint we interpret and just run with it. This is real journalism. Journalism is meant to inform and protect our free speech as citizens, allowing us to view this information at first hand is incredibly informant and impactful. Though, I think these videos should be censored to kids younger than 18. I think that these images are far too violent to be seen by someone who doesn’t understand the politics of this situations at hand. However, those adults who are in school or working or living their life the best they can deserve to be able to see exactly what is going on in places where we don’t usually discuss. Ethically, I believe it would be wrong to allow young children to be exposed to this real, graphic violence; however, we can’t forget the fact that there are a multitude of extremely realistic video games that impact what our children see everyday. You may think that seeing the real version of these “fun” games is worse or unacceptable, but meanwhile your children are sniping 100 soldiers a day on their X-box while talking to their friends. What’s the difference? One is animated and inspired by true events, and one is the true events unfolding, unglorified, in front of your eyes. I think, as a people, we have become so desensitized to these graphic images, so why not take advantage of that unfortunate fact and use it to inform us realistically?