



Engaged Citizens: SS.7.CG.2.8
**Influencing and Monitoring
the Government**
READING #1

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.2.8 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will identify methods used by the media to monitor and hold government accountable (e.g., acting as a watchdog, freedom of the press as contained in the 1st Amendment).

The **media** uses their right to **freedom of the press**, protected in the **First Amendment**, to monitor and influence the government. The media includes print (newspapers, magazines), broadcast (television, radio), the Internet, and social media (Facebook, Twitter). The media report stories about public officials, give information online about the government, or broadcast news reports on the radio or TV. The media plays an important role in both monitoring and influencing the government through their reporting.

The media has a major impact on influencing and monitoring the government. The media often serves as a **watchdog**, keeping an eye on the government and reporting on what the government does. The media may focus on a specific issue or campaign, which will attract public attention and may influence how people vote.

First Amendment - an amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting Congress from establishing a religion, and from interfering with freedom of religious exercise, press, speech, assembly, or petition

freedom of the press - the right of the press to write and print news and information free from government involvement; guaranteed in the First Amendment

media - plural form of the word "medium," refers to various means of communication. For example, television, radio, newspapers and the Internet (web) are different types of media. The term can also be used to describe news organizations as a whole group.

watchdog - a person or group who acts as a protector or guardian