

## 1 The Media Creates, rather than Reflects, a Society's Values

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3 Stance: Agree

Word Count: 395

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5 In our world, the media provides a form of mass communication that has a  
6 broad influence on our society. So it is understandable that the media may have  
7 opportunity to create, as well as reflect a societies values. However, three points  
8 that correspond with this statement that argues that the media does more to create  
9 rather than reflect a society's values are the opportunities for bias, portrayals of  
10 ideals, and the mass influence social media can play on reporting news.

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12 Our media is portrayed by companies with discrete views, so ideas can be  
13 biased in the way they are presented. For example, it has been brought up that the  
14 race of terrorists plays a role in how they are portrayed in the media. People that  
15 aren't white are targeted as terrorists or are connected to ISIS and danger. While  
16 white individuals are depicted as troubled or mentally ill and are not defined by  
17 their race.

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19 A constant example of how the media creates a society's values is the notion  
20 the ideal woman. From a young age, children are exposed to what they media  
21 decides an ideal woman would physically look like and act. This is due to the  
22 constant social media presence of celebrities, models, and how accessible this  
23 content is. There are now professional social media influencers that as their careers  
24 promote products and persuade others using their large social media presence and  
25 audience.

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27 Another example that supports this statement is the role social media plays  
28 in sharing news. Now more than ever there are more avenues of finding, sharing  
29 and learning information. Because of this, many people find themselves learning  
30 about breaking news on social media. While a social media platform is similar to  
31 other news sharing sites much of its content is designed to target distinctive people.  
32 For example, in 2016 there were many terrorist attacks across the world. But  
33 attacks in Paris were much more prevalent on social media than the attacks that  
34 were happening at a similar time in Istanbul. Supportive Facebook filters deemed it  
35 was important to pray for Paris, while there was a lack of support for Istanbul.  
36 While there are many reasons for why this occurred, in hindsight this may have  
37 provided inherent values to our society deeming which country deserved our  
38 support more.