

Tip #33 - Meet the Facts!

Do you believe everything you see on TV? Probably not.

But do you believe everything you see on a highly regarded TV news show such as *Meet the Press*? Do you believe everything stated by US senators and generals? Possibly you do.

A self-proclaimed “non-partisan” group set up an internet site called “Meet the Facts” when it discovered the following:

“*Meet the Press* does not fact-check its guests. According to host David Gregory: not *Meet the Press* [sic]. Fact-checking is one of the primary functions of journalism, but Mr. Gregory has said that it’s up to the viewers to determine fact from fiction.” (from <http://meetthefacts.com/>)

Here’s some questions for your class to consider after looking at the page <http://meetthefacts.com/>

- 1) Who is responsible for news media checking their facts? Should it be an ad hoc citizen group such as “Meet the Facts”
- 2) How do you know that the group “Meet the Facts” is non-partisan? Why does it matter?
- 3) Does this make you question what you hear on tv or radio news?
- 4) What should be expected of a US Senator caught in a untrue claim, such as Senator McCain saying that Phoenix, Arizona is the “number two kidnapping capital of the world.”
- 5) How scrupulously should you check the facts in your research papers for Cambridge College? How can you check the facts?