

FINAL PRESENTATION

MEDIA LITERACY – SPRING 2025

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

LIVE ON MAY 14 (2:30pm-3:30pm) or MAY 21 (1pm - 3pm)

RECORDED DUE BY MAY 18

For your final presentation, you will be exploring media coverage of current events topics. Here are the topics (descriptions on other side):

- Female Space Flight
- Relationships with GenAI
- Young Men Leaning to the Right
- Detainment of Mahmoud Kahlil
- Pronatalist movement

Individual presentations should be 5 minutes each. Each presentation should:

- Introduce the topic, give a general overview and summary. Assume your audience knows NOTHING about the topic.
- Explore how news media have covered the topic, compare and contrast different sources.
- Analyze how the public has addressed the topic on social media.
- Answer these questions:
 - How does this topic relate to the concepts of media literacy that we have discussed over the course of this semester?
 - What implications has this topic had on you personally?
 - In five years, how do you imagine this topic will still be relevant? In ten years?
 - What are the implications of this topic for future generations?

Each presentation must include: Presentation slides (Powerpoint, Google Slides, Prezi, whatever platform you prefer.) You must use at least 3 examples of media. Do not exceed 2 minutes of media content total. **You will need to turn in a written outline/script of your presentation.** This must be given to me BEFORE your presentation so that I can review it DURING your presentation.

SUMMARY OF TOPICS (Thanks, Chat GPT)

Female Space Flight

On April 14, 2025, Blue Origin launched its NS-31 mission, marking a historic milestone as the first all-female crewed spaceflight since 1963 (solo mission). The suborbital flight aboard the New Shepard rocket lasted just over 10 minutes and included singer Katy Perry, journalist Gayle King, entrepreneur Lauren Sánchez, former NASA engineer Aisha Bowe, civil rights activist Amanda Nguyen, and film producer Kerianne Flynn. While the mission was praised for promoting gender representation in space, it also drew criticism for appearing extravagant amid global economic struggles, sparking debate over the role of private space tourism.

Relationships with GenAI

Humans are increasingly forming diverse relationships with ChatGPT, ranging from practical to emotional. Many use it as a productivity or learning tool, treating it like a helpful assistant or tutor, while others seek companionship, conversation, or emotional support, especially in times of loneliness. This growing engagement reflects both the personalization of AI and its integration into daily life, while also prompting questions about the nature and limits of human-machine relationships. (podcast episode: [She Fell in Love with Chat Gpt](#))

Young Men Leaning to the Right

In recent years, a noticeable trend has emerged in which many young men are shifting toward right-wing ideologies. This movement is influenced by a mix of cultural, economic, and social factors, including disillusionment with mainstream liberal narratives, a reaction to perceived political correctness or cancel culture, and the appeal of online influencers who promote traditional masculinity, personal responsibility, and anti-establishment rhetoric. Economic uncertainty, declining job prospects, and a search for identity and purpose in a rapidly changing society also contribute to this shift. Social media platforms amplify these messages, creating echo chambers that reinforce conservative or even reactionary views.

Detainment of Mahmoud Khalil

Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University graduate and legal permanent U.S. resident, was arrested on March 8, 2025, by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents without a warrant. The agents, acting on orders from the State Department to revoke Khalil's student visa, detained him at his Manhattan apartment building. Upon discovering his permanent resident status, they proceeded to revoke his green card instead. Khalil was transported to the LaSalle Detention Center in Louisiana, where he remains without facing criminal charges. (podcast episode: [Detainment of Mahmoud Khalil](#))

Pronatalist movement (phones = less babies)

The pronatalist movement promotes higher birth rates in response to declining fertility and aging populations, often through government policies like financial incentives, paid parental leave, and childcare support, as well as cultural encouragement of larger families. Technology and hyper-engaging media are believed to contribute to increased isolation among young people, making it harder for them to form relationships. This digital solitude may hinder the formation of couples, further implicating birth rates. (podcast episode: [No Kids on the Block](#))