



The Role of Journalists

Directions: As we watch and discuss video clips from the documentary *Bill Moyers Journal: Buying the War*, write down answers to the following questions:

Video clip: Press Conference

- What was the purpose of the press conference?
- Why do you think the President had a list of reporters to call on in advance?
- What does this tell you about the relationship between the President and the White House press corps?

Video clip: Patriotism and Journalism

- Why did some news organizations think that there was something wrong with challenging the Bush Administration?
- Who was putting pressure on journalists during this time period?
- What might have been the economic consequence if journalists didn't bow to such pressure?

Video clip: Skeptical Journalists

- According to journalist Bob Simon, why didn't the White House press corps question the alleged connection between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda? What do his comments imply about how a news organization should position reporters?
- How did the methods of reporting used by skeptical journalists differ from other reporters?
- What is a reporter's responsibility to the public to dig deeper?

Video clip: Sorting Fact from Spin

- What were some of the strategies used by the Bush Administration to market its policy on Iraq?
- Why do you think these strategies were effective?
- What approach did reporter Jonathan Landay use to help the public sort out the facts?