

# Book Review: The Elements of Journalism by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel

*Covenant Journal of Communication (CJOC) Vol. 1, No. 2, December, 2013*

6 Pages Posted: 13 Aug 2014

[Ada Peter](#)

Covenant University

[Nnamdi Ekeanyanwu](#)

Covenant University

Date Written: August 12, 2010

## **Abstract**

The book "The Elements of Journalism" written by Kovach and Rosenstiel attempts to propagate the "ideal" elements of journalism. What this book captures better than any single book on the practice and principles of journalism is the weaving together reasons and scenarios why media audiences have fled and why new technology and large corporate ownership are putting journalism at risk. The book is also a product of interaction with practicing journalists under the auspices of the "Committee of Concerned Journalists Traveling Curriculum" in the United States. Written in eleven chapters, the book attempts to weave in the various strands and argument, alas, within the United States alone, on what constitutes elements of journalism, why they are controversial and what is practicable within the book's geographic area of coverage. Kovach and Rosenstiel's explanation and position on each element are concise gems, filled with insights but not likely to be considered axiomatic in other contexts outside of the United States or similar geographic settings. The book explains in details the ideal core principles "supposedly" shared by journalists across media, even across cultures. These principles flow from the essential function news play in people's lives. This new edition is completely updated and includes a new 10th principle (haven explained 9 principles of journalism in the first edition) -- the rights and responsibilities of citizens -- flowing from new power conveyed by technology to the citizen as a consumer and editor of their own news and information.

**Keywords:** Journalism, Ethics, Objectivity

**Suggested Citation:**

Peter, Ada and Ekeanyanwu, Nnamdi, Book Review: The Elements of Journalism by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel (August 12, 2010). Covenant Journal of Communication (CJOC) Vol. 1, No. 2, December, 2013, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2479327>

[Download This Paper](#)

## Related eJournals

- [Cultural Anthropology eJournal](#)