

# Become an INFORMED AMERICAN! A Guide to Responsible News Watching!

## BEFORE YOU BELIEVE MAINSTREAM MEDIA "NEWS," ASK YOURSELF THESE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS!

#### DID YOU GET...

#### **1.THE WHOLE STORY?**

Were you told:

Who was involved – Was there anyone else involved who was not mentioned?

What took place – Does this make sense? Were there related events that were omitted?

Where it occurred, and under what conditions

When it happened – Was it a result of or a response to anything else?
Why is the story being reported and why is this story getting so much attention? Is it vital news?

### 2. INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOURCE? Were you told:

Who supplied the information and do you know the background or involvement of the sources?.

What corroboration exists to establish the credibility of the story?

Where the information originated, and whether the source is reliable?

When the facts were revealed

Why the story was released and why was it released now?

### 3. IMPORTANT BACKGROUND?

Were you told:

Who was previously involved?
What led up to the event?
Where contributing events took place?
When earlier incidents occurred?
Why the events are connected?

### 4. A BIASED PERSPECTIVE? Were you told:

Who has a different view of the events
What part of the story was speculation
Where opposing viewpoints can be found
When political gain is possible
Why no challenge has been offered

### 5. A PREPARED SCRIPT? Were you told:

Who stands to gain political points or media ratings

What facts are missing or glossed over Where does the opposition stand on the issue

When the story will be corroborated Why there is no supporting evidence

#### DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON AN INFORMED ELECTORATE!

**GET INFORMED and STAY INFORMED**