<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1608</td>
<td>First English reporter in the colonies, Captain John Smith, leader of the Jamestown settlement, publishes his newsletter, <em>Newes from Virginia</em></td>
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<td>1690</td>
<td>First American Newspaper, <em>Publick Occurrences, Both Foreign and Domestick</em>, is published in Boston</td>
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<td>1721</td>
<td>The <em>New England Courant</em>, published by Ben Franklin’s older brother James, is first to offer readers literature in addition to news</td>
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<td>1727</td>
<td>First local correspondents report news from nearby communities, in the <em>New England Weekly Journal</em></td>
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<td>1729</td>
<td>Ben Franklin makes the <em>Pennsylvania Gazette</em> the best newspaper in the colonies, with the largest circulation, most pages, highest income from advertising, and the most literary columns</td>
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<td>1750</td>
<td>Fourteen weekly newspapers are read in the six most populated colonies</td>
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<td>1768-1769</td>
<td>Patriot Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty spread news items about the British to newspapers through the “Journal of Occurrences”</td>
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<td>1769</td>
<td>Printing presses are made in America by Isaac Doolittle of Connecticut</td>
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<td>1776</td>
<td>The Boston paper, the <em>Massachusetts Spy</em>, supports the movement for independence and publishes an eyewitness account of the first battle of the American Revolution</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Colonial newspapers reprint Thomas Paine’s pamphlet, <em>Common Sense</em>, encouraging colonists to revolt against the British.</td>
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<td>Less than a month after its approval, more than 20 newspapers carry the full text of the <em>Declaration of Independence</em>, spreading the word of the cause of freedom across the new United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>1783</td>
<td>First daily newspaper, the <em>Pennsylvania Evening Post</em>, appears</td>
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<td>1791</td>
<td>First Amendment to the Constitution, protecting freedom of the press and other freedoms, is approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>1795</td>
<td>Reporters allowed in both the House of Representatives and the Senate</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Twenty-one newspapers are published in the new West, beyond the Appalachian Mountains</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800-1830</td>
<td>Quarterly, monthly, and weekly magazines begin to appear</td>
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*Found at:* [http://www.writesite.org](http://www.writesite.org)
1811  *Niles’ Weekly Register*, first news magazine appears

1814  Congress says that at least two newspapers in each state and territory must print laws passed for the nation

1827  Reporters from three newspapers become the first Washington correspondents, beginning continuous coverage of the Congress to this day

1828  First Native American paper, the *Cherokee Phoenix*, appears, printed partly in English and partly in Cherokee

1830s  Pigeons and the pony express carry news from distant points

1833  *The New York Sun* becomes the first “people’s” or “penny” paper, selling on the street for just one cent

1835  *The New York Herald* introduces new newspaper sections devoted to money, sports, society news, letters, and reviews, and publishes “extras” or special editions to cover significant news

1841  Horace Greeley’s *New York Tribune* offers readers views on many issues

1851  *The New York Times* is founded

1840s  Railroads and steamships carry news items quickly and are used to distribute newspapers

Mid-1840s  Telegraph used to convey news at a distance

1849  Groups of newspapers band together to support a news-gathering service that will supply foreign news by ship and telegraph; the group later becomes the Associated Press (AP)

1856  First African-American daily, the *New Orleans Daily Creole*, is published

1861-1865  Hundreds of photographers, including the well-known war photographer Mathew Brady, are issued passes to cover the Civil War

Reporters in the field develop the summary lead to make sure that the main point of their story gets through by telegraph

Papers begin to bulletin highlights of the war action as headlines

1870-1900  Population of the United States doubles; city population triples; number of daily newspapers quadruples


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Editorial staff at big-city daily newspapers grows and becomes more specialized, with an emphasis on reporting.

More women work at newspapers, as correspondents, editors and writers.

Telephones and typewriters change the way work is done in the newsroom.

Cables linking the United States to England and parts of Asia make news gathering faster.

Newspaper publishing becomes a major business in the United States.

1870s-1880s New magazines treat readers to high-quality literature, humor, and discussion and debate of political issues.

1880-1900 Bigger and faster presses are developed to print more copies of papers in less time in order to meet tighter deadlines and serve the growing number of readers.

Photographs begin to appear in newspapers.

Number of African-American papers increases.

1890s Sensationalism, known as yellow journalism, is used to win papers more readers.

1893 Color is used for comics and other parts of Sunday editions.

1900-1925 Political cartoons offer commentary on the news in many newspapers.

1907-1909 United Press Association and the International News Service compete with the Associated Press in gathering news from around the world.

1917 Ethnic papers reach a peak with 1,323 foreign-language publications.

1910-1914 Number of newspapers in the United States reaches a high, with 2,600 dailies and about 14,000 weeklies published.

1920s Radio and movies begin to compete with newspapers and magazines for people’s time and attention.

Many newspapers begin to include political columns.

1930s Personalized or “gossip” columns appear for the first time in papers.

Picture magazines such as Life become extremely popular and provide greater opportunities for photojournalists.

1930s-1940s Newsreels shown at movie houses before or after the feature film offer a new view of the news.


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TIMELINE: TRACING THE HISTORY OF JOURNALISM IN THE UNITED STATES

1950s  People begin to turn to television for the news

1960s  “Underground” and alternative papers and magazines rebel against and criticize established papers and the country’s political and social structure

Variety of newspapers serving the Latino community are founded

1960-1990  Investigative reporters uncover information about the activities of the government and other groups and offer interpretations of events and issues, such as organized crime, the Pentagon Papers, Watergate, and Iran-contra

1970s-1980s  Computers begin to change the process of producing a newspaper

1980s  Number of daily papers decreases because of increase in the price of newsprint and in supply costs, rising pay, loss of advertising to television, and general decline in advertising

Four press associations or news agencies - the Associated Press, United Press International, Reuters, and Agence France-Presse – provide more than 90 percent of all international news

1990  Newspaper groups own most of the daily papers in the United States, with Gannett, Knight-Ridder, Newhouse, New York Times, Dow Jones, and Thomson, the five largest groups, in terms of dailies owned

1990s  Reporters are able to file stories from around the world immediately using lap-top computers and modems or via satellite

For more information, including frequently asked questions about journalism in the United States, go to:  http://www.writesite.org

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