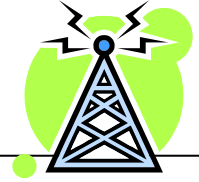


Media Truisms



Do you believe the following statements to be true? For each of these “media truisms”, suggest an alternative viewpoint.

1. Private enterprise, while sometimes given to excess, is the core of our society and is beyond questioning.
2. It’s all very well to talk about alternative energy, organic agriculture, and preserving endangered species, but when there is a payroll to meet and stock prices to keep high, there is really no alternative.
3. People who are wealthy got there because of ability and usually deserve our respect and admiration.
4. People who are poor got there because of their own inability. Still, they deserve some form of charity as in food banks.
5. Government debts are mostly due to lavish social programs, which we can no longer afford.
6. Occasionally a tyrant in some part of the world threatens democracy and has to be put in his place, for the good of the world community and those in that community.
7. Environmental problems are largely invented by irrational members of radical groups such as Greenpeace.
8. Immigration laws in Canada are too lax. We let people in from minority cultures and they take advantage of our social programs and jobs.
9. Unions have outlined their usefulness. Employers no longer try to abuse workers and government regulations protect workers.
10. The news media are independent, socially responsible watchdogs whom look out for the public interest.