Americans' Consumption of News
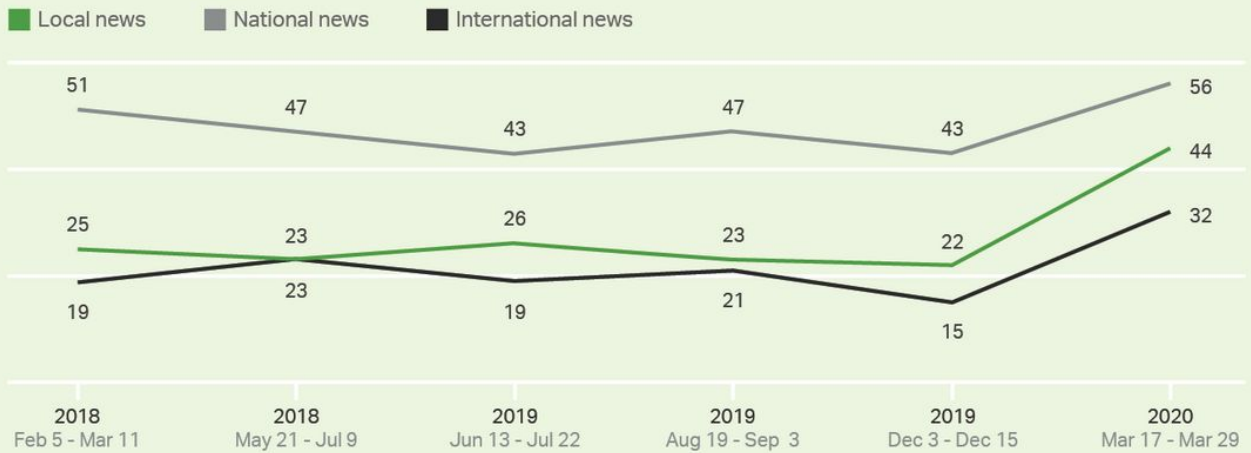
How much attention are you currently paying to each of the following? -- % A great deal

- **Local news** (green)
- **National news** (gray)
- **International news** (black)

National news: 51, 47, 43, 47, 43, 56
Local news: 25, 23, 26, 23, 22, 44
International news: 19, 23, 19, 21, 15, 32

| 2018 Feb 5 - Mar 11 | 2018 May 21 - Jul 9 | 2019 Jun 13 - Jul 22 | 2019 Aug 19 - Sep 3 | 2019 Dec 3 - Dec 15 | 2020 Mar 17 - Mar 29 |

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Critical Analysis

1. What happened to Americans' news consumption between 2019 and 2020?
2. Identify one trend from the data.
3. What do you think are the two major reasons for the change in news consumption between 2019 and 2020?
4. What is one consequence of this trend?
5. How has your news consumption changed over the past year?
6. Now that Trump has been deplatformed and removed from office what do you think will happen to Americans' news consumption?
7. Of the three types of news: local, national, and international which increased the most over the past year?*
8. Why do you think that is?
9. During the coronavirus do you think Americans are getting more news from liberal, conservative, mixed, or undesignated sources?*
10. How does party affiliation impact the kind of news Americans get?*
11. Do you think that the people who get the most news are the best informed?
12. Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." Explain whether, in the midst of the coronavirus outbreak, you agree with Thomas Jefferson's quote.

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Learning Extension

Read this sweet and short little report on media usage in the time of coronavirus from the folks at Gallup. Or check out these tasty infographics about news consumption by generation.
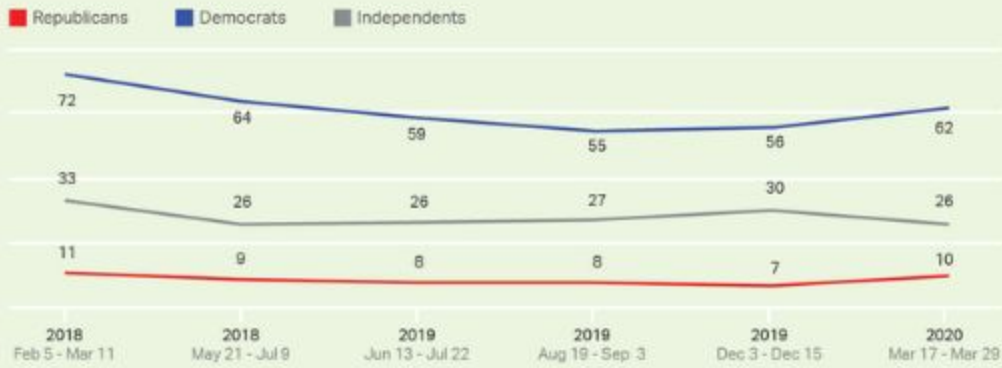
Action Extension

Try following a news source that is not similar in ideology or perspective to your own beliefs. Share in class or online how that newly added media impacted your own views of the coronavirus. Also, you deserve a break. Take a little field trip with us to an American National Park!

Visual Extension

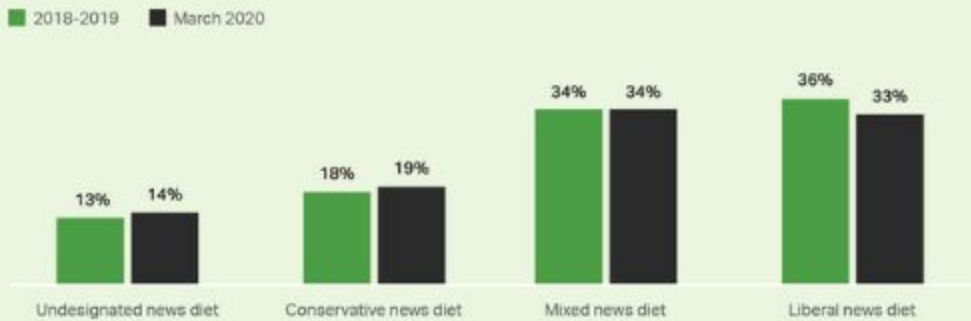## Americans' Low Opinion of the News Media, by Party ID

What is your overall opinion of the news media in the United States today? -- % Very/Somewhat favorable

■ Republicans   ■ Democrats   ■ Independents

	2018 Feb 5 - Mar 11	2018 May 21 - Jul 9	2019 Jun 13 - Jul 22	2019 Aug 19 - Sep 3	2019 Dec 3 - Dec 15	2020 Mar 17 - Mar 29
Democrats	72	64	59	55	56	62
Independents	33	26	26	27	30	26
Republicans	11	9	8	8	7	10

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Americans' News Diet Before and During the Coronavirus

Please name the top 2-3 news sources you use. Be as specific as possible.

■ 2018-2019   ■ March 2020

	Undesignated news diet	Conservative news diet	Mixed news diet	Liberal news diet
2018-2019	13%	18%	34%	36%
March 2020	14%	19%	34%	33%

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Americans' News Diet Before and During the Coronavirus, by Party ID
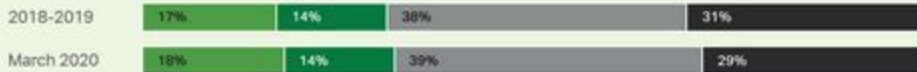
Please name the top 2-3 news sources you use. Be as specific as possible.

■ Undesignated news diet   ■ Conservative news diet   ■ Mixed news diet   ■ Liberal news diet

Republicans

| 2018-2019 | 13% | 45% | 34% | 9% |
| March 2020 | 15% | 46% | 32% | 7% |

Independents

| 2018-2019 | 17% | 14% | 38% | 31% |
| March 2020 | 18% | 14% | 39% | 29% |

Democrats

| 2018-2019 | 8% | 30% | 61% | |
| March 2020 | 9% | 32% | 58% | |

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Americans' Views on Coronavirus by Demographic Group

	Question 1*	Question 2*	Question 3*
	% Coronavirus less deadly than or as deadly as flu	% Media giving too much attention	% Trump doing excellent/good job
News diet			
Liberal only	28	28	11
Mixed	36	42	36
Conservative only	57	71	94
Undesignated	52	51	44
Democrats^			
Liberal news diet	25	19	3
Mixed	21	28	2
Independents^			
Liberal news diet	27	39	13
Mixed	34	43	29
Republicans^			
Mixed	56	58	88
Conservative news diet	58	69	98
Education			
No bachelor's degree	46	50	46
Bachelor's degree	24	31	25
News use			
Less than a great deal	47	63	49
A great deal	36	35	35

*NOTE: Fewer than 100 Democrats and Independents have an exclusively conservative news diet; fewer than 100 Republicans have an exclusively liberal news diet.

*Q. 1: The death rate for the seasonal flu is around 0.1%. That means roughly one person dies from the seasonal flu for every 1,000 people who get it. From what you know or have read, or just your best guess, is the death rate from Coronavirus (COVID-19) greater than, less than or the same as the death rate from seasonal flu? Q. 2: Do you feel the media is giving too much, just about the right amount or too little attention to coverage of COVID-19? Q. 3: How would you rate President Trump's handling of the U.S. response to COVID-19?