



Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>

Why no answers?

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>
To: Enock Nyariki <enyariki@poynter.org>

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Hi Enock,

Thanks for getting back to me. I'm disappointed there's no commitment to regular questions, but given your offer to answer legitimate questions when I have them it's almost the same thing.

- 1) Yes, I am a journalist doing journalism fairly. I do fact-checking journalism where I emphasize the objective paradigm, analysis where I mix opinion with facts, and opinion journalism. I categorize which is which at my site. I respond to criticism when I receive it and treat corrections religiously.
- 2) I don't do fact-checking at my site because the importance of oversight for the fact-checking overseers outweighs fact-checking in importance. There are many fact-checking sites. There are few that seek to hold the powers behind the journalistic fact-checking movement accountable. When I first started out I put quite a few fact checks up, considering I'm a one-person crew working less than full time. But that was always unsustainable. So, I spent much of the first year showing how fact-checking might be done better, then shifted to fact-checking fact checkers and looking over the IFCN's shoulder.

I've maintained an excellent record for responding to any (reasonable or reasonable-ish) criticism I receive, and that would include any specific criticism that I fail to report fairly. And I have to do these things, for I represent Zebra Fact Check as a model others should follow.

I don't do fact-checking for others (besides a brief stint with Ballotpedia) because most stipulate adherence to public political neutrality, following traditional journalistic norms and the IFCN policy. I decided while still in journalism school that I would have none of that. I was conservative before journalism school and it hasn't worn off. I don't intend to pretend I'm not conservative for the sake of landing a job. I would consider that dishonest. That accounts for the position I took on the IFCN's Code of Principles stipulating political neutrality when the IFCN first published it. Could I start throwing out red meat and land a job with some conservative publication? Probably. But that's never been my style, and the critical task of reforming journalism calls to me. So I spend hours of free time every week pointing out the need for reform and suggesting reform strategies. I've come up with a few.

I hope I've modeled the method for directly answering questions.

Cheers!

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