



A recent survey by Pew Research Center sought to determine just how well Americans are navigating our current media landscape. The good news: a majority of participants correctly identified at least three of five statements in the set. The not-so-good news: that's only slightly better than if those participants had chosen at random. In this edition of Wide Angle, we introduce a new column, "The Active Citizen," in which we provide practical tips on how to discern fact from fiction while reading the news.

We'll also provide insight into election security, an issue for every citizen regardless of political persuasion, and give readers an opportunity to test their knowledge on the topic of impeachment.

Finally, we share news and opinion pieces worth reading, starting with a tribute to Senator John McCain that we found particularly inspiring.

From all of us at Common Ground Solutions, have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend!

## THE ACTIVE CITIZEN

### How to Read the News

Reading the news today is anything but simple; the media landscape is complicated, confusing, and sometimes ill-willed. [Here are some tips](#) for thinking beyond the headlines, vetting sources, understanding motivations, and thinking like a fact-checker.



## COME TOGETHER

### Election Security

Few things are as fundamental to democratic values as [free and fair elections](#). That's why anyone, of any political persuasion, should be concerned that our top national security officials are anticipating trouble for the upcoming midterm elections.

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### Impeachment

Recent polls show measurable sentiment for impeachment proceedings against President Trump. We take no position on the issue, but feel that public discussions about impeachment are generating more heat than light. How much do you know about the impeachment process? [Take the quiz](#) and find out.



## IN PASSING

### Senator John McCain

Of the many tributes written for Senator John McCain, we found [this one](#) to be particularly inspiring.

## WORTH READING

### News and Opinion Pieces We Found Interesting

*Our disclaimer: We don't endorse every idea and opinion in the articles below, but that's the point. Finding common ground begins with listening to other points of view.*

**THE CONVERSATION:** College admission policies that guarantee a spot for students in the top ten percent of their class might be a better way to achieve diversity.

**THE ATLANTIC:** Candidates in the Wisconsin Governor's race are running as if education is a top voter priority -- and one of them is a former teacher and school superintendent.

**BLOOMBERG:** Despite a tight labor market, employers of construction, trucking, and child care workers describe factors that are holding back wage growth.

**WIRED:** A former GOP Congressman, Chip Pickering of Mississippi, heads the only telecom group fighting for net neutrality.

**USA TODAY:** Despite fears raised by horrific cases like the murder of Mollie Tibbetts in Iowa, research clearly points to the conclusion that immigrants commit fewer crimes than native-born Americans.

**BLOOMBERG:** Seven years ago, a wave of southern states required that businesses use a federal database to check the immigration status of employees. Since that time, however, they haven't cancelled a single business license.

**BROOKINGS:** According to a new study, voters interested in government reform fall into four broad categories: dismantlers, expanders, rebuilders, and streamliners. What kind of reform do American voters want for the future?



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