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**My Digital Self**

News has interested me for a very long time. This was mostly because of how quickly it can impact a large number of people. My news consumption is generally limited to national, state and local. Although world news can have an impact on me, I usually do not consume it solely because it does not interest me very much. National stories capture my interest the most because of how many people can be affected by certain issues. Some of my favorite stories revolve around national weather, heroes, and generally uplifting topics. That being said, these hurricanes that have impacted the US recently have really captured my attention.

 As previously mentioned, I generally concern myself with national news. Although I do appreciate local news, I do not follow the news from my home town. This is mainly because I grew up in a very small town where not many exciting things happen (aside from the county fair and Fourth of July festivities). When I go online for news, I usually go for the big national networks like Fox, CBS, and NBC. Scrolling through the homepage until I see a headline that interests me is usually my technique. I can’t say I have one favorite news site because I have many interests that fit in many different niches. From woodworking and drag racing to presidential speeches and the latest national news, I haven’t been able to find a news source that combines all of my interests in an easy-to-read way. However, since I have been using Google on my cell phone lately, Google has been recommending certain articles to me that cover almost all of my obscure interests. This really makes it easy to consume information across multiple subject areas in very little time.

 Ever since I was a child, I have always been a very visual learner. That means that audio reports are off the list of news “mediums” that I enjoy. Videos and text are my two favorites mainly because of how visually interesting they (usually) are. Lately, I have really come to enjoy graphics. I especially enjoy the interactive type that allow the reader to learn more if they choose to click on different items. I think this really helps keep the reader engaged with the story. I use social media, but not often for news. I have read too many Facebook articles that have irrational bias or just plain false information in them for me to trust them again. This has also lead me away from Facebook and into the world of Twitter. I enjoy the clean user interface of Twitter and how user-friendly it is. I follow most of the major news networks as well as a couple of specific reporters that I admire. Although I am new to the podcast game, I have found a couple on Spotify that I enjoy. The majority of these are not news related. They include topics like: woodworking, audio and video production, movies and much more.

 “Fake news” has really become a well-known term in the recent months. Although fact-checking sources can be tedious and seem unnecessary, I will often encourage my peers to look for other sources regarding the same story to make sure they are getting all the information from multiple different perspectives.