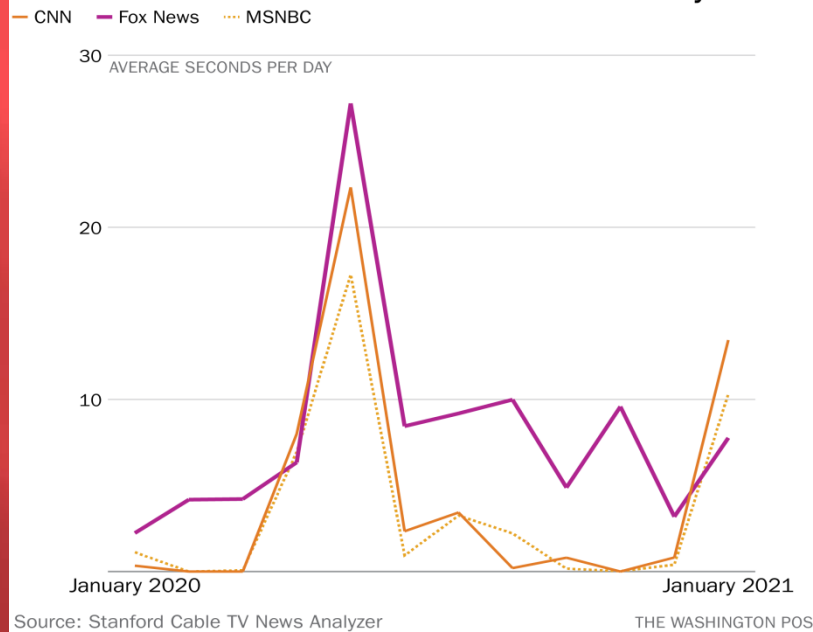


FOX NEWS VS. CNN ON POLICE BRUTALITY

Mentions of 'officer' and 'killed' on cable news by month



Student's name
Professor's name
Institution
Date

The Labelling Theory

- ▣ The American society views breaking norms differently, some with deviance others with stigma.
- ▣ Perception is often built on how media outlets present the order of events.



The Labeling Theory cont.

- ▣ The deviant label can cause stigma towards involved individuals.
- ▣ Both CNN and Fox News play a role in how over 6 million Americans view issues such as police brutality, Black Lives Matter and racism.



Different words

- ▣ Reviewing articles published on the same occurrence, it's easy to see Fox News Using words such as “shooting” and “ex-cop”, words that are less harsh, where as CNN used words such as “Murder” and “fired officer” (Berman, 2021).



Different perceptions

- ▣ Where viewers watch or read content can affect how they perceive events.
- ▣ CNN tries to lean towards The Democrats while Fox News leans on the Republicans.



Different Headlines

- ▣ Last year during the Black Lives matter protests, Fox News ran a headline “Attacks against Law Enforcement amid Nationwide Riots”.
- ▣ CNN ran headlines as “Large Protests in D.C. as Curfew Pushed Back Tonight.”
- ▣ MSNBC wrote “Peaceful Protests Tonight in Cities Across the U.S.



Different images

- ▣ Last year during the BLM protests, Fox News avoided overhead shots and crowd perspectives.
- ▣ Their correspondents reported from places that were less crowded.



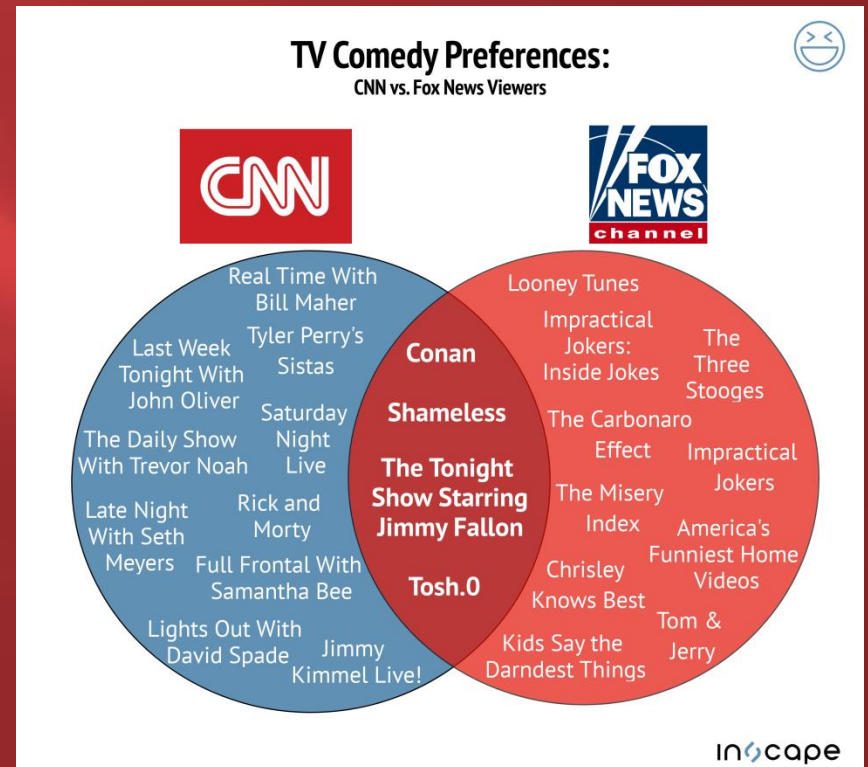
Different Images cont.

- ▣ On Fox News, often, a split screen showed a non-live footage of looting.
- ▣ Cameras only captured protesters over the shoulders of the police.
- ▣ This prevented the audience from seeing the weapons carried by the police.



CNN and Fox News as News Channels

- Both Fox News and CNN report actual news on top of the hour.
- In between news, commentators and analysts discuss biased details on news stories.
- The entertainers and analysts' opinions can match either the right or the left.
- Fox News tends to be more conservative and often supports the Republican Party.



Different description of events



- ❑ Both CNN and Fox News addressed the issue of Police Brutality.
- ❑ CNN has published articles that critique excessive force.
- ❑ In June 2021, Fox News published articles on the number of police officers shot and killed by civilians (Berman, 2021).
- ❑ They cited that campaigns to defund the Police have led to these events.

Favoritism

- ▣ The titles, phrases and general statements affect how the audience perceives a situation.
- ▣ It is clear from reviewing articles on law enforcement and police brutality that Fox News is more favourable to law enforcement than CNN.



Use of language



- ▣ The verbs used to describe a single incident varied, from shooting to murdering.
- ▣ Homicide has the possibility of getting out of jail.
- ▣ Murder carries a life sentence.
- ▣ Murder has a negative connotation when compared to shooting.
- ▣ CNN appears to be against use of excessive force by police officers.

Details and their effects

- ▣ Whereas Fox News gives fewer details, CNN gave more detailed description.
- ▣ CNN reports the officer's actions which point out to the officer's mistakes.
- ▣ The depth descriptions, in many times, made officers appear as inhumane and disgusting (Berman, 2021).



Race

- ❑ Race plays a key role in most police brutality cases.
- ❑ The law enforcement officer was always white, the victim an African American man.
- ❑ Race was reported in the same way in both CNN and Fox News (Berman, 2021).
- ❑ The gender of the officers did not matter, but men were more present than women.



Conclusion

- ▣ From comparison of articles, Fox News tried to give a view that improved the law enforcement stand.
- ▣ Their articles justify the officer's shooting and paint the officers in a positive light.
- ▣ CNN focused on the officer's actions, which often gave the officers a negative image.



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