Chapter 7 questions

Due 9/30

1. Explain the role of the media in the US political system. How does the media report political news? Does media coverage influence the political behavior of Americans? If so, why? If not, why not? Explain how media coverage can influence the political behavior of candidates? Is it possible for the media to set the political agenda for an area, state, or nation? If so, how and why? If not, should it?

2. To what extent do news commentators and reporters express their own political opinions? Does this influence their interview questions and, more specifically, their follow-up questions? How does language used by the media affect the way people think about candidates and issues?

3. How do news organizations get most of their news? What role do beats, trial balloons, and leaks play? Is the process of news-gathering fair and logical? Explain.

4. Describe the relationship between the mass media and the President, and how it has changed over the last several decades. Include examples of how various presidents such as George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon, and Franklin Roosevelt have interacted with the media, i.e., how much and under what circumstances.

5. Has the increase in information technologies in society created a more informed citizenry? Why or why not? What claims do the commercial media make regarding why citizens are or are not informed?