

Writings of Public Intellectuals

Adapted from Susan Gilroy, Harvard College Libraries:

http://hcl.harvard.edu/research/guides/lamont_handouts/scholarlyjournals.html

The following journals and magazines are worth consulting if you need accessible, intelligent (and often provocative) commentary on issues of interest.

American Enterprise: Explores domestic and worldwide issues from the perspective of public policy analysts and those who form such policies. Viewpoint is conservative.

The American Scholar: Contains essays by contemporary writers on current affairs, the cultural scene, politics, science, religion, philosophy, literature and the arts.

The American Spectator: Features investigative reporting, comprehensive book reviews, and informed analysis of current political and cultural affairs. Viewpoint is conservative

The Atlantic Monthly: Intelligent discussions of a broad range of topics of current, political, and cultural interest.

Commentary: Thoughtful essays, from a moderate viewpoint, on political, social, theological and cultural themes; especially focused on Jewish concerns in the U.S. and abroad. Viewpoint tends to be moderate.

Commonwealth: Opinions on a wide variety of issues: public affairs, social affairs, religion, literature and the arts. Published by Catholic lay people, it tends toward a “slightly liberal Catholic perspective,” but represents other viewpoints as well.

Critical Review: An interdisciplinary journal covering politics and society; articles typically focus on the theoretical or historical dimensions of an issue under discussion; aims at “dispassionate” investigation.

Dissent: Political and cultural journal that seeks to foster an appreciation of the importance of democracy in all areas of social life. Advertises itself as a magazine “of the left” for “independent minds.”

Harper's Magazine: A monthly magazine for the intellectually curious, concerned with issues and ideas. Many articles are excerpted from longer works, including scholarly ones.

Mother Jones: Magazine of politics and award-winning investigative journalism; devotes itself to “progressive causes” and liberal viewpoints.

The Nation: A journal of politics, economics, education, foreign policy, labor, law and other social issues, literature and the arts. Viewpoint is liberal and left.

National Review: Provides first hand reports on national, international and cultural affairs; its special focus is on Washington and other political hot spots. Viewpoint is conservative and right.

New Criterion: Criticism on cultural and artistic life in America, geared at the informed reader rather than the scholar.

New Republic: A journal of opinion, comment, and criticism in politics, economics, foreign affairs, literature, and the arts. Makes an effort to be even-handed, rather than partisan in its treatment of contemporary issues.

The New York Review of Books: Thoughtful essays on important current issues by some of the best and best-known writers of the day. Its lengthy book reviews and commentaries attempt to position scholarly research within the broader context of public affairs.

New Yorker: Essays by well-respected writers on domestic and international topics and events; also known for its cartoons, poetry, short fiction, criticism and comment on sports, fashion, the arts.

NPQ [New Perspectives Quarterly]: Each issue treats a single theme; articles are drawn from numerous viewpoints and thus enable readers to see a topic from its many sides. Authors are often internationally recognizable figures.

The Progressive: Political, social, and economic analysis, investigative reporting, and commentary. Viewpoint tends to the left; advertises itself as “one of the leading voices for peace and social justice in America.”

Tikkun: Aims to “question traditional liberal and progressive approaches to political and social issues” in its articles; also includes some poetry and fiction, and devotes a portion of each issue to contemporary Jewish concerns,

TLS: Times Literary Supplement: Lengthy book reviews and erudite and informative commentary on wide range of social, political, cultural, and artistic topics. TLS tends toward the conservative, but its stated position is non-partisan. Widely admired.

Utne Reader: Feature articles and cover stories on a range of current issues; material is culled from alternative and independent press publications.

Washington Monthly: The world's opinion makers present their views on defense and security, foreign affairs, and international problems; articles are always provocative.

The Wilson Quarterly: Bills itself as a “national review of ideas and information” under public debate; essays are written by leading thinkers in a field and cover a variety of viewpoints.