



Film Description

Logline:

Caught up in an attention-driven media landscape, idealistic journalists struggle to overcome public distrust, re-shaping the future of news publishing.

Synopsis:

In a world where technology disguises misinformation and propaganda as news, it's difficult to know what information to trust. Many Americans have been driven away from the news they need to participate in our democracy. ***Trusted Sources*** is a new documentary film that shows how we got here, how to find trustworthy news, and how to protect good journalism.

Narrated by NPR's Jenn White, *Trusted Sources* follows a young reporter working to build trust with reluctant sources and shows the discussions that take place in local newsrooms across the country as stories are being developed. The film addresses the top reasons people distrust news, and shows how news reporting has evolved over time.

Today's information landscape has democratized news publishing and shifted the flow of money that once paid for journalism to national advertising platforms. The result is that local news outlets are closing at a rate of more than two per week, leaving many areas of the United States with **no local news reporting whatsoever**. As that happens, corruption rises while civic participation falls. *Trusted Sources* shows how some local news organizations have been rescued from closure and are finding ways to thrive with new business and reporting structures.

Ultimately, finding and protecting good journalism requires some effort from news consumers. *Trusted Sources* shows how we can identify news organizations that earn our trust by adhering to **standards that we expect of them**, how to **spot misinformation** and stop it from spreading, and what we can do to **protect and support** our local news outlets.