Freedom of the Press

Emilee Bell
In a powerful punch to government corruption, reporters used the First Amendment to expose Nixon’s disreputable actions as president and became the force behind the impeachment vote. For new generations of Americans, details of the Watergate scandal are essential to protecting our constitutional rights, according to Dr. Harris. She illustrates the development not only of the amendment itself, but of the American citizens’ and government’s relationship with this right, through wars, technological advances, and social change.

As usual, Dr. Harris has provided ample resources for further research on behalf of the reader. The organization of the book, with call-outs, index, end notes, and more, is impeccable. However, this time, there are a few key points and anecdotes that do lack a foundation. The underlying emphasis does lean toward drawing parallels between leaders who tried to shutter the press in the past and the current political temperature, with the use of the phrase ‘fake news.’ While well within her right as an author, it might be better to call this an opinion piece of work rather than a wholly unbiased nonfiction piece.