[upbeat background music]

How do you stay up to date on current events? Surely, it’s an important part of your day. According to the Pew Research Center, more than 85% of adults get their news from either websites, apps, or social media. How might this affect the ways in which they see the world and form their opinions about it?

Certainly, there are advantages to getting news digitally, after all, there must be some reason why the trend exists. The most obvious point would be convenience. The fact that nearly everyone has a smartphone in their pocket right now, is a good indicator of an explanation being convenience.

[Insert YouTube clip]

The next might be cost. Much of the news read online is free. Even news outlets with paid subscriptions like the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times offer a few of their articles to the Internet public free of charge.

Especially in this digital world, there is little need for people to look for what is inconvenient. Who would pay to carry a newspaper around when they could keep everything they need in a small device?

[smartphone noise]

However, there must be some disadvantages to online news consumption that may pose some harmful effects on the population.

The Internet is open-sourced and unregulated, meaning that literally anyone, regardless of whether or not they are qualified or correct, can spread their opinions and information.

[Insert YouTube clip]

In addition to falling for inaccurate information, the Internet creates echo chambers for its media consumers. An echo chamber is defined as a metaphorical description of a situation in which beliefs are amplified or reinforced by communication and repetition inside a closed system. Although the sheer size of the Internet seems endless, search engines use algorithms to populate search results with information it thinks the researcher wants to see.

[Insert YouTube clip]

[resume background music]

With the Internet playing more and more roles in nearly every aspect of society, it is important that we use its power responsibly. When consuming news media, we must be conscious of where it came from and who has written it. It may be a good idea to get our news from other outlets like television and even the newspaper rather than solely relying on our smartphones and computers. [Fade music out]