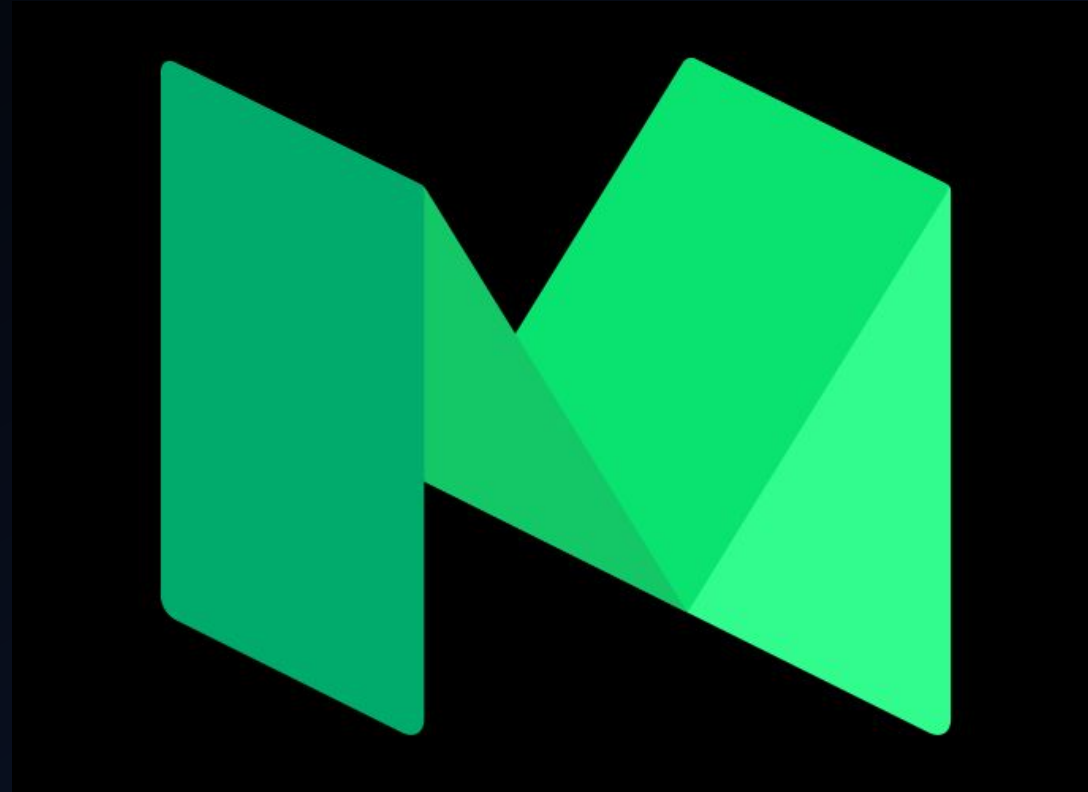
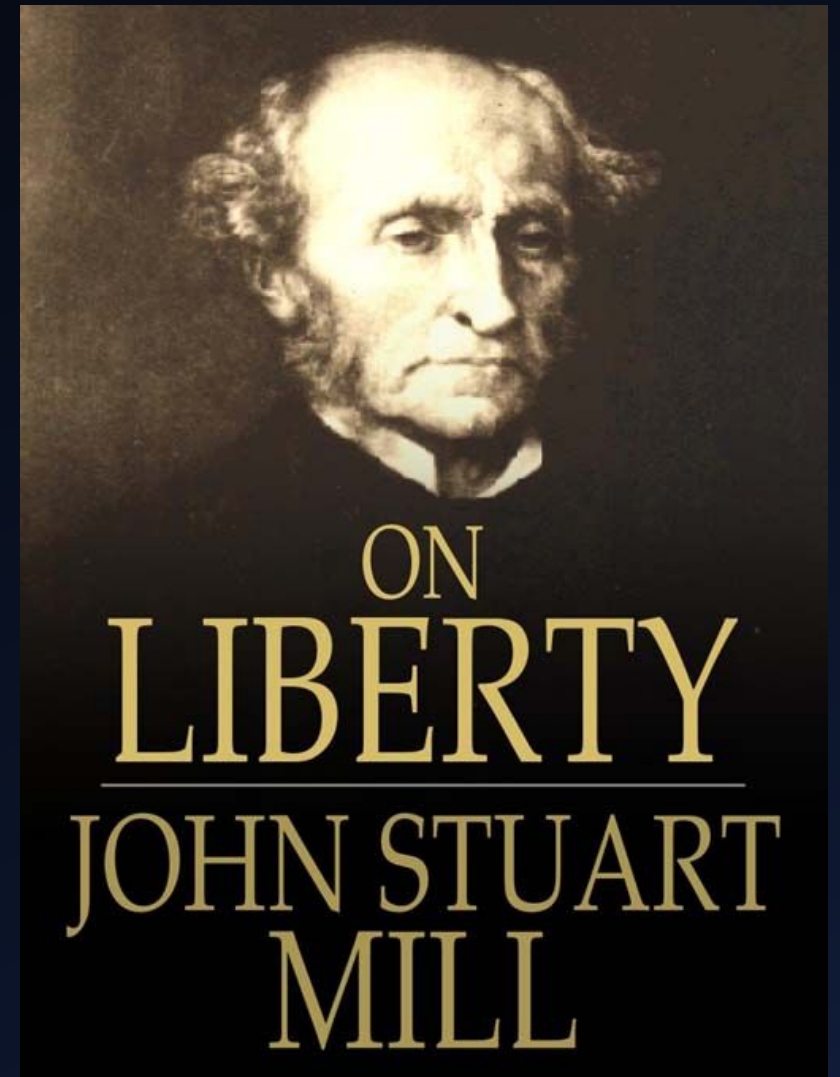


Medium



What is Medium

- “An ideas exchange, where thinkers, creators and those with a story to share come to find their audience, move people and move us all forward.” –founder Ev Williams
- “That network effect of recommendations and followers is powerful here in a way that it never was on Twitter, or on any other social network I’ve used.” –Paul Ford
- “My goal — now — is more to participate in the marketplace of ideas than it is to build an archive of my own. I’ve come to feel that the value of my writing is not the growth of my personal brand but how sharing my idea can help start or progress a conversation around the topics I care about.” –Ian Patrick Hines
- “Medium seemed to be a machine for generating the kind of passaroundable content that does so well on Twitter.” —The Atlantic



My Medium Experience



Aaron Z. Lewis

Nov 8 · 5 min read

Recommended by Medium Staff and 1,615 others



Photo credit: [Yale Daily News](#)

What's Really Going On at Yale

By now, you've probably seen the video of a Yale student yelling at a professor, the Facebook post about a "white girls only" party, or the email



Bo McMillan
Nov 11 · 6 min read

Moral Myopia: A Response to the Events at Yale and the University of Missouri



Last month, *The New Yorker* published "[Pond Scum](#)," an article that criticized the "moral myopia" of a hero of rugged American individualism, Henry David Thoreau. For those who haven't read the American classic, *Walden* is about the 26 months that Thoreau spent in a cabin at Walden Pond in Concord, Mass., an experience that the author uses to argue a



Bo McMillan

2 days ago · 3 min read

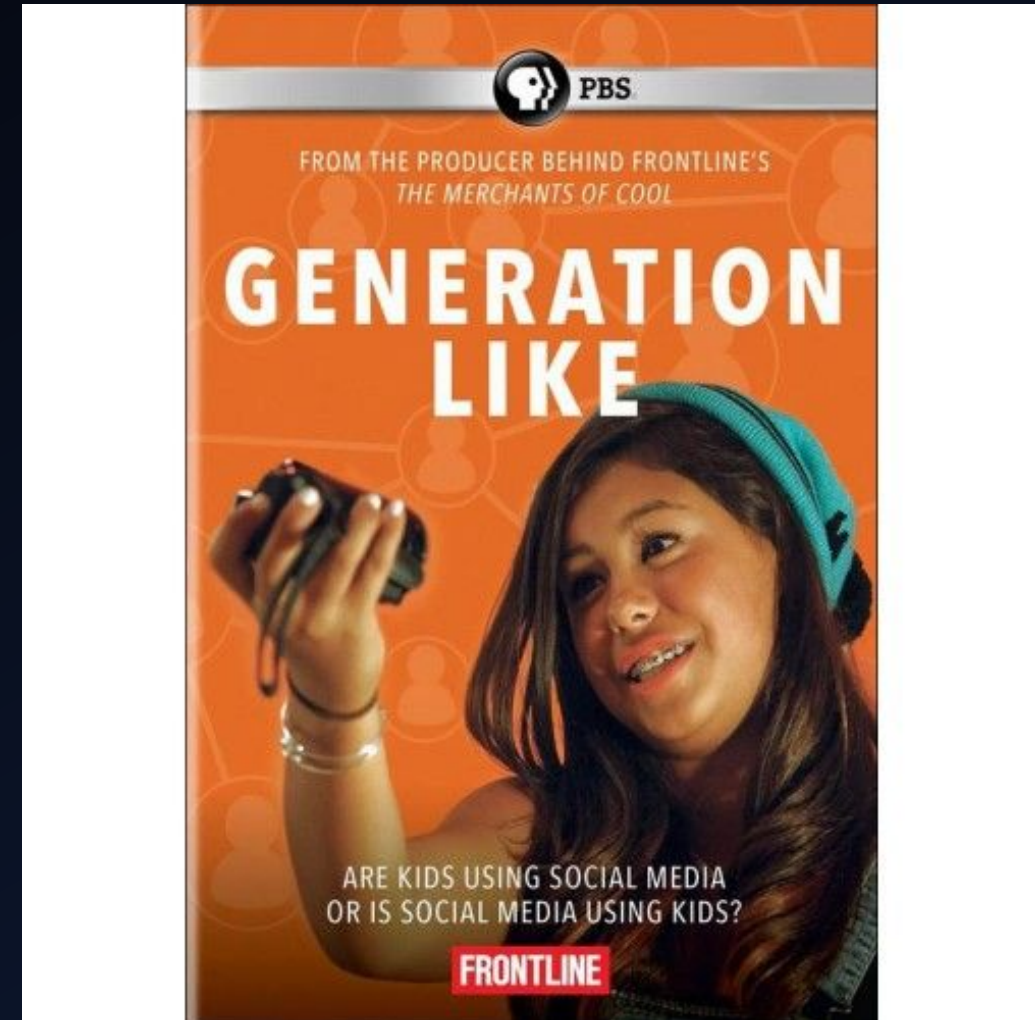
Famous French authors on how to handle dark moments in history

Insight on the attacks in Paris from the works of French literati

Flaubert, the brilliant French author behind *Madame Bovary*, once said that we have to "read in order to live." Fiction not only captures the intricacies of living and human interaction in their most accessible forms, it preserves their features and provides us an ideal means to evaluate ourselves, to look critically and correct our flaws throughout history with detachment. It is indispensable for exactly that reason.

How Medium Functions

- Social currency: Likes and shares propel content into ever more public eyes
 - Paradox of Success: As more people around you like story, more likely you are to click on and share it
- Networked individuals not only take in massive amounts of information, but process and add to the information available online
- Participatory
- “Skim the cream”
- Part paid-for content, though...



Why use Medium?

- “Utopianism” of free expression
 - boyd’s “public space” retreat becomes a public forum; Hyper Personal Model
 - Montaigne ideal for Sullivan
- Celebrity: The Authentic Interaction or Personal Branding?
 - Anthony Bourdain, Bono
- Economic Incentive(?)
 - Cross your fingers for six degrees of separation, accelerated by tags and networks of similar interests
 - Can it be “hacked” like online dating?
 - Blogging according to the Andrew Ross Sorkin and Andrew Sullivan models



The Nefarious Economics of Tech(?)

- Akin to Spotify, and, like Spotify, pays some writers cents on \$
- Democratizes Internet like Astra Taylor wished, or no? After all, a former Twitter CEO is behind it...
 - See: Circumcision Story
- “The Medium is the Message”: Relegates Internet progression to more immediate information, so will the lack of professionalism reduce the quality of the information?



Sloane Crosley

Feb 25, 2013 · 18 min read

The First Cut

It wasn't the first time that bothered me, or the second, or third. It was the fourth. Something about the way this woman tapped me on my shoulder and asked me what the hell I was doing crashing her son's bris. She cocked her head when she asked, just as her grandmother, sister, and cousin had done in the last ten minutes. I rolled up my sleeves in symbolic tribute to the occasion, touched my brow, and sighed. *Here we go again*, I thought. This was no way for a woman to learn about circumcision. *Dayenu*. Enough.

If circumcision in America is at the center of a sensitive debate, the bris itself

CENTRALIZATION

- Even if it resisted, Applebaum argued in Cypherpunks that it's the sites fault that it collected the data in the first place.
- “The idea won't be to start a website. That will be dead. The individual website won't matter. The Internet is not going to be about billions of people going to millions of websites. It will be about getting it from centralized websites.”
–Williams, founder
- Morozov's Pessimism

**Knowledge Is Free.
We Are Anonymous.
We Are Legion.
We Do Not Forgive.
We Do Not Forget.
Expect Us.**



What it means for technological evolution

- Twitter: From Orality to Literacy, a reversal of the trend?
- Memes to think pieces?
 - Decline of normal newspapers vs. increase in subscriptions for Atlantic and New Yorker
- With VR: a Ted Talks like forum?
- Bentham tension: Free Market or Panopticon?
- Frederick Douglass, Gideon v. Wainwright, or digital captives

