

Student Handout: CNN Milestones



THE WORLD'S NEWS LEADER

1980

June

CNN signs on the air June 1 as the world's first 24-hour news network reaching 1.7 million cable television households. Headquartered in Atlanta, CNN opens bureaus in Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., London and Rome.

1982

January

CNN2, which later becomes CNN Headline News, launches on New Year's Day.

April

CNN wins lawsuit against ABC, CBS, NBC and White House to gain right of equal participation in the White House press pool.

CNN originates first live U.S. telecast from Cuba since 1958.

CNNRadio launches.

June

Japan and Australia receive first international distribution of CNN.

1983

October

CNN purchases Satellite News Channel ABC/Westinghouse's competitive 24-hour cable news venture.

1984

March

Premiere of *International Hour*, U.S. television's only news program devoted exclusively to coverage of global news.

1985

September

CNN International begins live 24-hour transmission to Europe.

December

CNN posts first profitable year.

1986

January

CNN is the only network to air live coverage of the space shuttle Challenger explosion.

1987

May-July

CNN is only network to air live, continuous coverage of Iran-Contra hearings.

1989

May

CNN airs live coverage of unrest in China and student uprising at Tiananmen Square.

August

CNN becomes available worldwide 24 hours a day with transmission on a Soviet satellite to Africa, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. CNN begins CNN NEWSROOM, a daily, commercial-free newscast for schools worldwide.

November

CNN provides history-defining footage of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

1991

January

CNN alone reports live from Baghdad on the night the war on Iraq begins, with a record U.S. audience and a worldwide audience of nearly 1 billion, the largest audience of a non-sporting event in television history.

April	CNN is first television network to broadcast live reports from Iran.
August	CNN is first with news and live pictures of coup d'état in the Soviet Union and airs first live interviews with Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and other Russian leaders.
December	CNN interviews Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev on Christmas Day and broadcasts live coverage of the final transfer of power from the Soviet Union to Russia.
1992	
January	CNN founder R.E. Turner named <i>TIME</i> magazine's Man of the Year.
1993	
November	CNN obtains record ratings for the <i>Larry King Live</i> NAFTA debate between Vice President Al Gore and Reform Party presidential candidate Ross Perot.
1994	
May	CNN gains exclusive access to live reporting from North Korea.
June	CNN's live coverage of O.J. Simpson car chase garners highest breaking news ratings outside of the network's Gulf War coverage.
1995	
August	CNN launches CNN.com, a multimedia news service on the Internet, making it the only site with a 24-hour, full-time staff reporting constantly updated news augmented by video, sound clips, still photographs, maps and text.
December	CNN launches fourth network, CNN <i>fn</i> , with a companion Web site CNN <i>fn</i> .com.
1996	
September	CNN's Peter Arnett reports live from Baghdad during U.S. missile crisis.
October	CNN parent company Turner Broadcasting acquired by Time Warner Inc.
1997	
March	CNN launches CNN en Español network. CNN opens Havana bureau.
October	CNN is the only Western network with reporters in Baghdad during crisis in Iraq.
1998	
October	CNN/U.S. airs exclusive interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro.
1999	
December	CNN provides unprecedented coverage of Millennium events across the globe. The CNN Web sites garner 6.7 billion page impressions during 1999.
2000	
January	CNN provides 100 hours of comprehensive Millennium celebration coverage.
July	CNN provides the most extensive coverage of the Republican National Convention and the Democratic National Convention (in August) with more than 400 personnel at each site, including correspondents, online, talk-show hosts and 45 anchors. CNN International South Asia launches, offering region-specific programming to Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and other South Asian countries.
November	CNN is the most-watched cable news network during Election 2000 and its controversial aftermath.
2001	
January	CNN parent company Time Warner, Inc., merges with America Online. CNN announces reorganization to strengthen bond between all media platforms—including TV, radio, Internet, wireless devices and other CNN businesses.

June	In the United States, CNN launches CNN to Go, making news and information available to cellular phones, PDAs and pagers through strategic partnerships with wireless ISPs and equipment manufacturers. CNN Mobile continues to provide content via mobile devices to the international community.
September	CNN broadcasts live, exclusive coverage from Afghanistan on Sept. 11, the day of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. CNN was the only U.S. broadcast news organization inside the country. The CNN Web sites garner record monthly traffic, serving more than 2.25 billion page impressions.
December	CNN Web sites garner 14.5 billion page impressions for the year 2001.