

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jason Martin, PhD

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Civics Education* Oral History project

Interview # ECE-A-L-2020-048

Dr. Jason Martin, a professor of journalism at DePaul University's School of Communications and Journalism, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Civics Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jul 20, 2020    Location: Telephonic interview

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:30 / 1.5 hrs

Transcript being  
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 16, 2020.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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## Abstract

Jason Martin, *Education is Key – Civics*, ECE-A-L-2020-048

**Biographical Information/Overview of Interview:** Jason Martin was born in January 1978. Jason grew up in Charleston, West Virginia and graduated from St Albans High School in 1995. Jason graduated with a BS in Journalism from West Virginia University in 1999, working on the student newspaper while in college. Following graduation, he worked for the local Charleston newspapers (*Daily Mail* and *Gazette*), then moved to Indiana where he worked for a local newspaper primarily covering Indianapolis' professional sports teams, the Indy 500, and local high schools. While there Jason earned a MA in Journalism from Indiana University (2006) and later a PhD in Mass Communications in 2011. That same year Dr. Martin became employed at DePaul University. At the time of this interview he was an associate professor and served as the Chair of Journalism for the College of Communication. Dr. Martin teaches courses in media law and ethics, First Amendment Law, political communication, entrepreneurial journalism, reporting, writing, and editing skills, and specialty areas such as data journalism, public records reporting, and statistics for journalists. He has authored book chapters on news agendas in communication, the globalist journalist in the 21st century, and the Routledge Handbook on Chinese Media. He has also done research in political outcomes and First Amendment implications of public affairs journalism.

Dr. Martin discusses journalism instruction at DePaul University. Courses such as media law and ethics, First Amendment law, and political communication were discussed. He also explored the importance of journalism ethics, the role of media literacy and challenges journalists face today, including issue of bias, recognizing fact/opinion, omission of stories, and the decline in local political coverage. He examines how DePaul has worked with the McCormick Foundation regarding media literacy. Dr. Martin discussed the University's efforts to bring in diverse speakers and the processes used. He reviews the challenges for the nation's school due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including remote learning, and DePaul's plans for the Fall of 2020.

**SUBJECT AREAS & KEY WORDS:** DePaul University School of Communications and Journalism; changing nature of journalism in America; Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics; Society of Professional Journalists; First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; teaching controversial subjects in the classroom;

**Notes to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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