

Jake Tapper
Anchor, CNN's State of the Union
CNN
January 17, 2017

Mr. Tapper,

Please consider correcting your 2013 broadcast, where you allowed a former Safety Board official to misinform the public on a top story at the time. The story involved six high-level insiders, including senior Safety Board investigator (Ret.) Hank Hughes, blowing the whistle on Safety Board malfeasance during an investigation of an airline disaster—that malfeasance being exposed in a documentary that I co-created. You never provided the whistle-blowers or myself equal time to respond to the many and significant inaccuracies, even after we were mentioned by name on air. And you never responded to requests that we be provided with that equal time.

As you know, journalism standards require that we be provided equal time since our team of expert investigators is better qualified to address the facts discussed on the offending broadcast than the public relations official you allowed on. Indeed, our team includes original, high-level investigators with leading roles in the relevant Safety Board investigation and with first-hand knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the crash. Your decision not to allow us to correct the record gives the appearance of an institutional bias on your part.

Since you recently re-tweeted “If you try to call out @jaketapper for being 'biased,' you will fail every time”, I am again bringing this issue to your attention. President-elect Trump and others have recently criticized CNN for airing alleged FakeNews stories, and without a proper correction to your broadcast or equal time to for us to respond to it, that uncorrected show may qualify as a legitimate instance of that type of news.

I hope you will consider finally correcting the record or allowing equal time for us to respond. At the very least, it may be advisable for you to tweet a link to our response to your show here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wE18rMbXKA>

Thank you,

Tom

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