



John Stossel

The author of two national bestsellers, *Give Me a Break* and *Myths, Lies, and Downright Stupidity: Why Everything You Know Is Wrong*, John Stossel was named co-anchor of ABC News' "20/20" in May 2003.

Stossel's TV specials consistently rate among the top news programs and have earned him uncommon praise: "The most consistently thought-provoking TV reporter of our time," said the Dallas Morning News, while the Orlando Sentinel said he "has the gift for entertaining while saying something profound."

Stossel began his career as a consumer reporter, criticizing business. He changed his focus after concluding that government regulation hurts consumers more. His more recent TV specials include "Stupid in America," which suggested that the government's monopoly on education cheats kids. "You Can't Say That", tackled touchy taboos like: America should do less for its senior citizens, pregnancy discrimination laws, food irradiation, steroids, and more. "Sick in America" suggested that a free market in health care would put more control into the individual's hands. "John Stossel Goes to Washington" observed how, under Democrats and Republicans, government keeps growing, while "Tampering with Nature" suggested that most tampering is a good thing.

In addition to longer in-depth reports for "20/20" on subjects ranging from government waste to parenting, Stossel often does shorter pieces debunking myths, like the evils of "sweatshops" and price "gouging." His "Give Me a Break" commentaries take a skeptical look at issues from censorship and government regulations. His most popular special in high school classrooms is "Is America Number 1?," for which Stossel traveled the world to compare American life with life elsewhere and asked, "What makes a nation prosperous?"

Stossel's first special, "Are We Scaring Ourselves to Death?," examined exaggerated fears." He looked at the battle between free speech in "You Can't Say That!," the science of happiness in "The Mystery of Happiness," destructive lawsuits in "The Trouble with Lawyers," and bogus scientific claims in "Junk Science: What You Know That May Not Be So." "Freeloaders" focused on how getting "something for nothing" appeals to all of us, including rich people who use the power of government to help themselves. "Greed" challenged conventional wisdom on how Americans view business, while "Sex, Drugs and Consenting Adults" questioned why Americans are jailed for voluntarily participating in so-called consensual crimes.



Stossel has received 19 Emmy Awards. He has been honored five times for excellence in consumer reporting by the National Press Club. Among his other awards are the George Polk Award for Outstanding Local Reporting and the George Foster Peabody Award.

Stossel is a 1969 graduate of Princeton University, with a B.A. in psychology.