

Ezra Klein: Building a career in the age of new media

Klein may have started out in traditional journalism, but his success has come from the digital media landscape

By: Alexis Dubree

It's not often that I venture into the world of political journalism and commentary. However, if I were to look for a podcast to turn on that would give me those feelings of enlightenment and being informed, I would no doubt turn to [The Ezra Klein Show](#). Ezra Klein is an award-winning journalist who utilizes his platform to interview experts in various political, social and scientific fields. Personally, I look to Klein for his analytical approach to interviewing and his willingness to challenge viewpoints he might not agree with. Klein has written for the Washington Post, the New Yorker and Bloomberg, and was also an analyst at MSNBC. The most unique thing about Klein, however, is that his success in journalism has come primarily from the digital media landscape rather than traditional media.

Klein's co-founding of Vox.com

In 2014, [Ezra Klein co-founded Vox.com](#). Vox is a digital news outlet that provides political,



Figure 1 - Ezra Klein co-founded and edited Vox.com for several years. Image source: Matt Winkelmeyer/Getty Images For Dropbox

cultural and technology news to its audience. Only two years earlier, Klein had been known in the journalism field as being a young, up and coming political journalist; in 2012, Matt Welch wrote a [feature story](#) for Columbia Journalism Review about Klein, describing him as “impossibly young, infuriatingly accomplished, and impressively wonky.” Just a couple years later, he co-founded one of the most influential digital media outlets that is still relevant today. On top of co-founding

Vox, Klein was also an involved editor and wrote many pieces himself on the subject of politics. Six years after Vox's founding, it was announced in 2020 that [Klein would be leaving Vox](#), along with Vox's editor-in-chief and senior vice president, Lauren Willams. This left everyone with one big question: what was Ezra Klein going to do next?

The move to the New York Times and The Ezra Klein Show

The answer to that question would be answered soon enough. Just days after it was announced that Klein was leaving Vox, the New York Times released a press release stating [Klein would be joining its Opinion beat](#) as a columnist and podcast host. Vox was where Klein proved himself to be a respected journalist and political analyst, but the New York Times provided Klein with a platform to reach wider audiences and find his media niche:

podcasting. [While at the New York Times](#), Klein began hosting “The Ezra Klein Show,” produced by the New York Times. A typical episode of “The Ezra Klein Show” includes him interviewing a knowledgeable guest on a current event or topic, with the goal of having an intellectual dialogue about important subjects. Sometimes these episodes discuss political topics, like the recent episode [Who Has the Power in Trump’s White House?](#) Other episodes cover relevant social topics, like last year’s episode [How the Attention Economy Is Devouring Gen — and the Rest of Us](#). Klein interviews his guests with an analytical slant and allows his audience to see multiple sides of the same picture.



Figure 2 - Klein's most notable work of this decade is The Ezra Klein Show. Image source: The Ezra Klein Show.

An abundance of accomplishments

Throughout his career, Klein has seen awards and accomplishments. In 2011, Klein was given [the Cary McWilliams Award](#), which recognizes outstanding work in political journalism. He made Esquire’s “79 Things We Can All Agree On” list in 2012, and TIME’s 2011 list of 25 best financial blogs. Most notably, in 2020, The Ezra Klein Show received [a Webby award](#) for best interview/talk show. Still, Klein’s lack of awards in the 2020s, a time period where he has amassed the biggest platform he’s ever had, suggest that digital media awards are still few and far between.

At 41 years old, Klein hopefully has a long rest of his career ahead of him. I think it is interesting that Klein’s career has spanned the transition of journalism from traditional media to new media, which is reflected in his work and accomplishments. Whether he continues to stay with the New York Times or moves onto an entirely new venture, I’m certainly curious about where Ezra Klein’s career will take him in the next ten years.

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About the author

Alexis Dubree is a growing PR and social media professional in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area. She will be graduating from the University of North Texas in May 2026 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism with a concentration in public relations. Alexis hopes to one day pursue a career in analytics.



Figure 3 - Alexis Dubree. All rights reserved.