

# 2025 State of the Media Report



#### **Table of Contents**

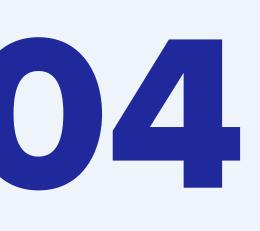
About the State of the Media Report

03

How Journalists Use Social Media



#### Highlights & Key Findings



Journalists Get **Real About** Artificial Intelligence



Navigating Media's Biggest Challenges



Final Thoughts





Understanding the PR/Journalist Relationship



Methodology







#### About Cision





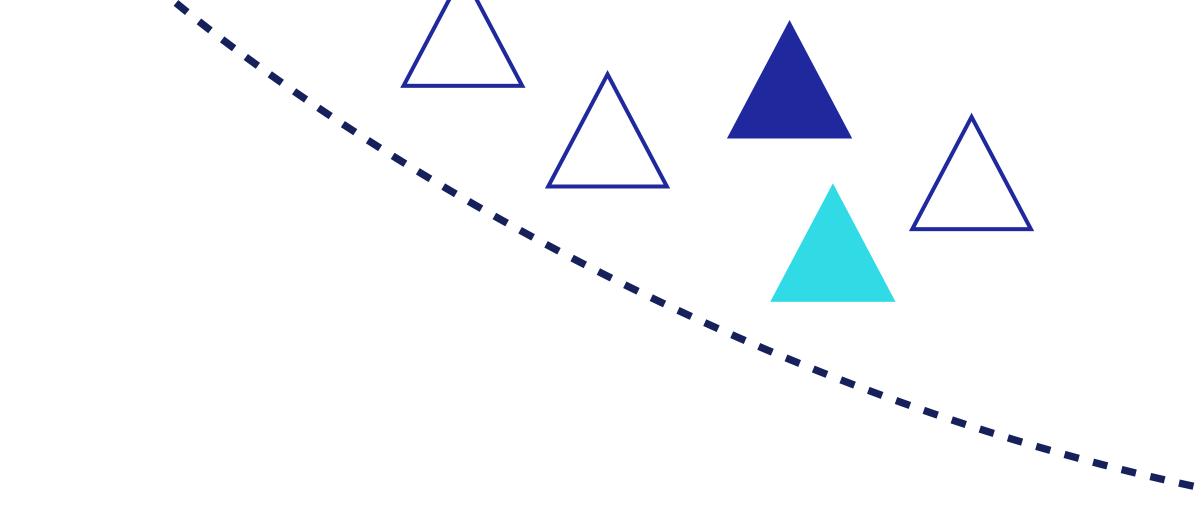
#### About the State of the Media Report

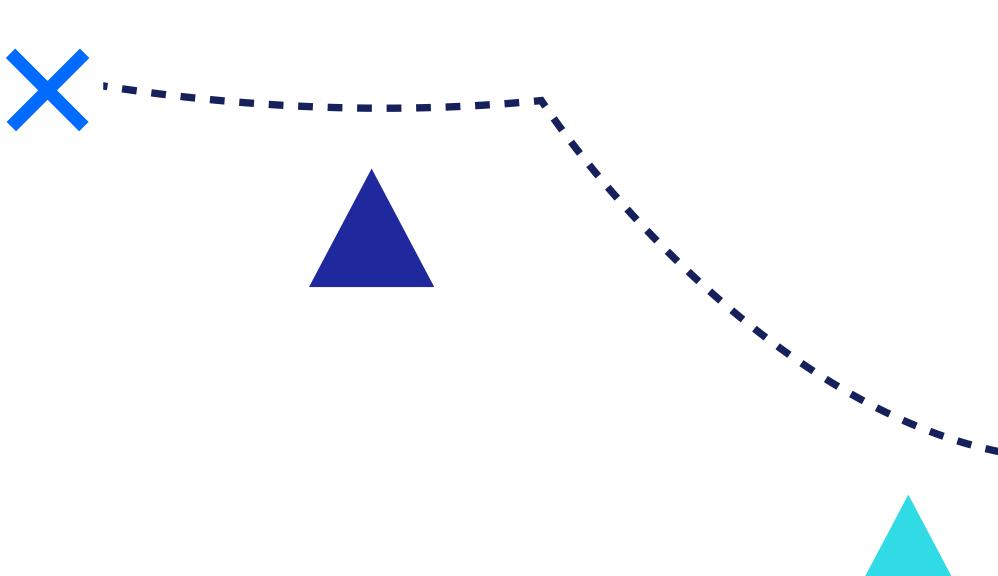
For more than a decade, the State of the Media Report has served as an essential field guide for PR professionals trying to understand the media landscape. Based on a global survey of more than 3,000 journalists, this report provides PR professionals with the behind-the-scenes intel they need to strengthen their relationships with the media, refine their outreach strategies, and ultimately secure more meaningful earned media coverage for their brands and clients.

This year's report went beyond global results to examine variations in responses across three major regions – North America, EMEA, and APAC (where 65% of respondents were from China). By highlighting the differences in journalists' challenges, preferences, and behaviors around the world – from their feelings on AI (and how PR professionals use it) to what they want and need from their media relations partners – we can provide PR professionals with more granular insights and broader perspectives.

As the media environment shifts and evolves, it's naturally a time of uncertainty for many journalists and the PR teams they work with. The unique data and industry insight in this report shed light on the media's most significant pain points and help public relations professionals forge stronger relationships going forward.

The 2025 State of the Media is your guide to navigating today's media world with clarity and purpose.





03

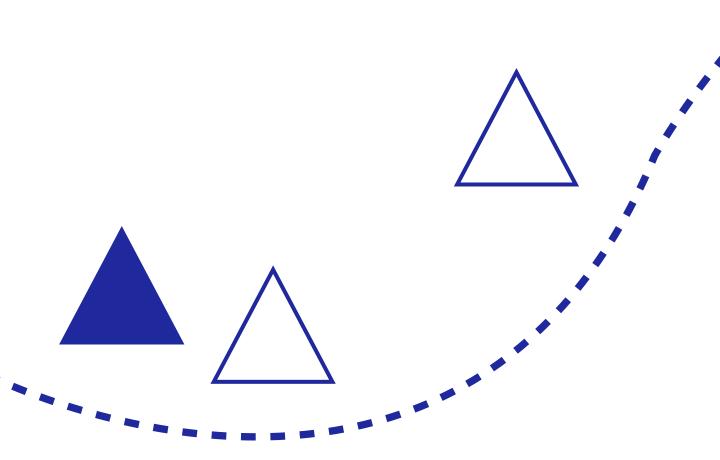
#### Highlights and Key Findings

#### Changing Audience Behaviors Impact the Industry

With more media outlets and publishing platforms than ever before (and more ways for audiences to consume content), it's hardly a surprise that "adapting to changing audience behaviors around media consumption" was cited as the biggest challenge by journalists globally. (Last year, this came in second behind "maintaining credibility as a trusted news source.") Undoubtedly, this is a challenge to which PR professionals can relate as well, and something worth considering when trying to understand which platforms journalists use to reach their intended audiences.

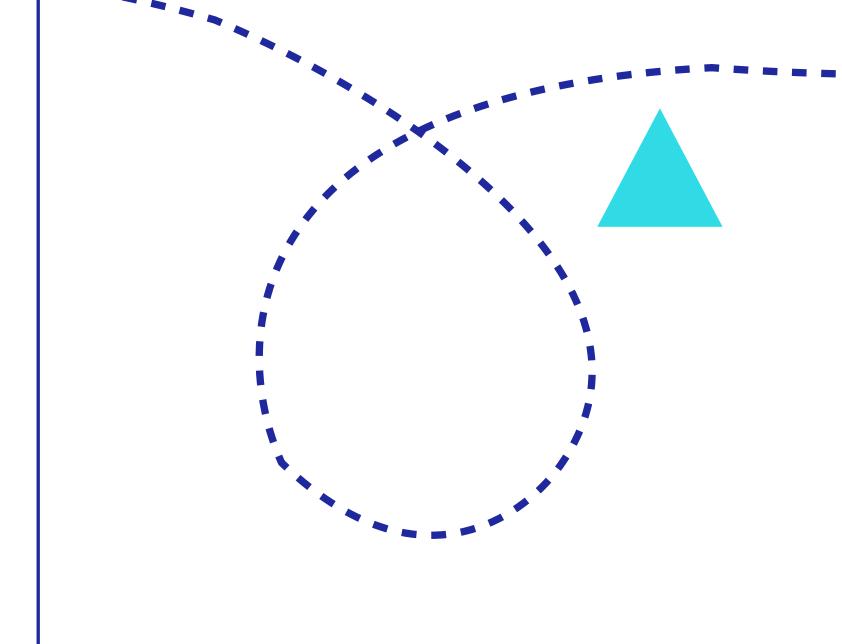
#### **Al Adoption Gathers Pace**

The emergence of AI has left many in the media grappling with the potential impact on their jobs; yet more than half use generative AI in their work, and another 13% plan to start using it. There are also interesting regional divides on the subject: Whereas North America is more resistant to AI, the China-led APAC region has embraced it more than anywhere else – even though they are more likely than journalists in other regions to cite AI's proliferation as a top challenge.



#### Social Media Is Ubiquitous (But Fragmented)

Ninety-six percent of journalists revealed they used social media for professional purposes, largely to publish or promote their own work. More than half say they use LinkedIn (making it the most popular platform globally), but newer platforms are making an impression across different regions. WhatsApp, for example, is more popular in EMEA and APAC than in North America, while North American journalists are adopting Bluesky a lot more than their European and APAC counterparts.



#### The Secret to Successful Media Relations Is...

A consistent theme that emerged throughout the survey was "relevance." Not only do PR professionals provide the most value when they connect journalists to relevant sources, but most journalists also say that pitching new, relevant story ideas can be instrumental in building relationships with them. By the same token, a lack of relevance is the top reason journalists will reject a pitch (and some will even block repeat offenders). These are just some of the findings that speak to the fundamental value of understanding your audience.

#### Putting the "R" Back in PR

Perhaps the biggest takeaway is the critical importance of remembering the relational aspect of public relations. The overwhelming majority of journalists (85%) said the best way to start building a relationship with them is to introduce themselves over email. Even if there's no story to pitch, making the effort to get to know a reporter is very much appreciated. As one journalist articulated: "Too many PRs forget what the 'R' in PR stands for. Reach out and make contact. You [the journalist] are far more likely to engage with a press release from someone you have met in the past."

# NAVGATING<sup>e</sup>st CHALL<sup>é</sup> MEDIA'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES

Understanding what makes journalists tick begins with knowing the challenges they face and the concerns they have about their industry. We went straight to the source to uncover the biggest obstacles getting in the way of their work, and ultimately affecting how they collaborate with PR professionals.

With Greetings From the 2025 State of the Media







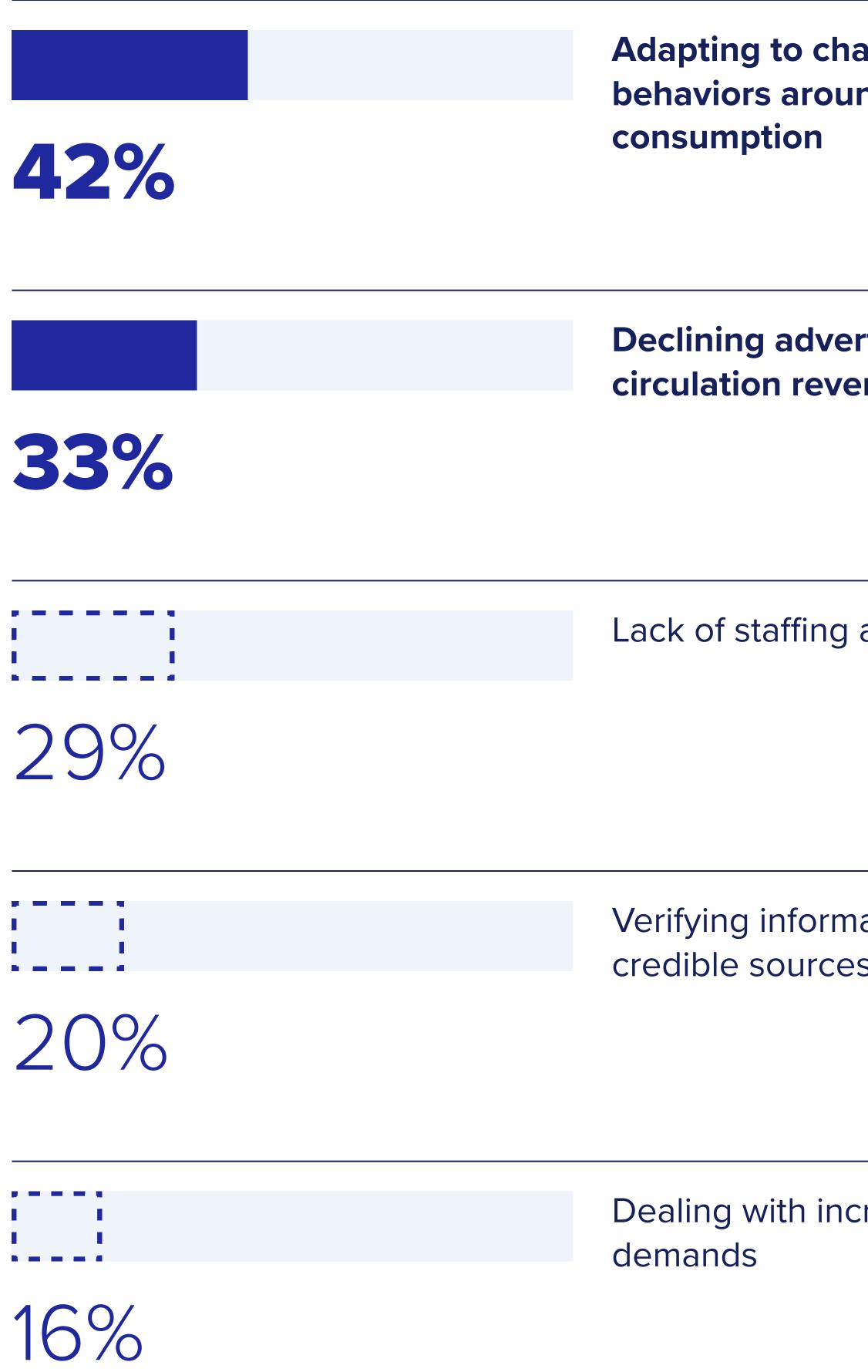
### Journalists' **Top Challenges**

For 2025, "adapting to changing audience behaviors around media consumption" emerged as the overall top challenge for journalists worldwide, followed by "maintaining credibility as a trusted news source/combating accusations of 'fake news'."

These two challenges have switched places from last year, indicating that journalists are increasingly having to contend with a fragmented media landscape where audiences consume content across different platforms.

Another notable change from last year: The emergence of AI ticked up from sixth to fourth place, named by three in 10 journalists as one of their biggest challenges in the last 12 months.

#### What do you believe were the biggest challenges for journalists in the last 12 months?

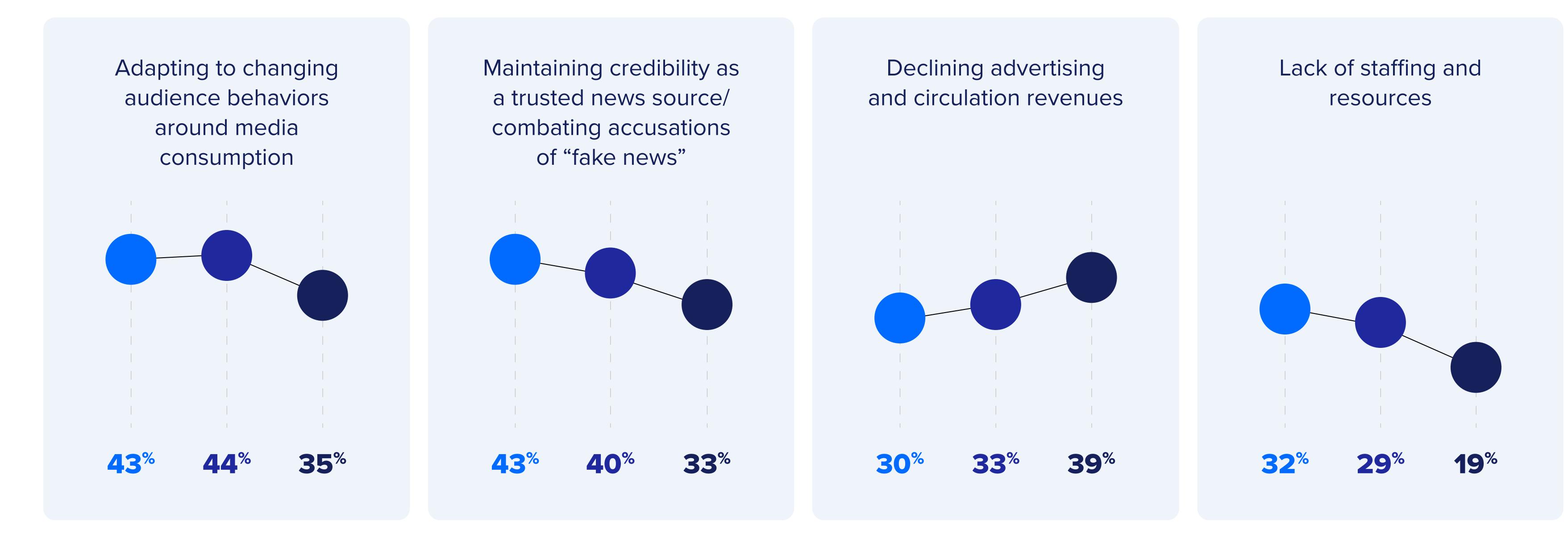


nanging audience und media	40%	Maintaining credibility as a trusted news source/combating accusations of "fake news"
ertising and enues	30%	The emergence of AI (artificial intelligence)
and resources	28%	Competing with social media influencers and content creators for audience attention
nation and finding es	17%	Blurring lines between editorial and advertising
creased workload	15%	Attacks on freedom of the press

### Top Responses by Region

When looking at the numbers by region, however, a more complex story emerges, with challenges varying significantly depending on where journalists work. While journalists in EMEA and North America are struggling to keep up with audiences, the chief concern for APAC is the disruption of AI.

#### What do you believe were the biggest challenges for journalists in the last 12 months?



Among other outliers, journalists in APAC are struggling significantly more with verifying information and finding credible sources than their colleagues in EMEA and North America.

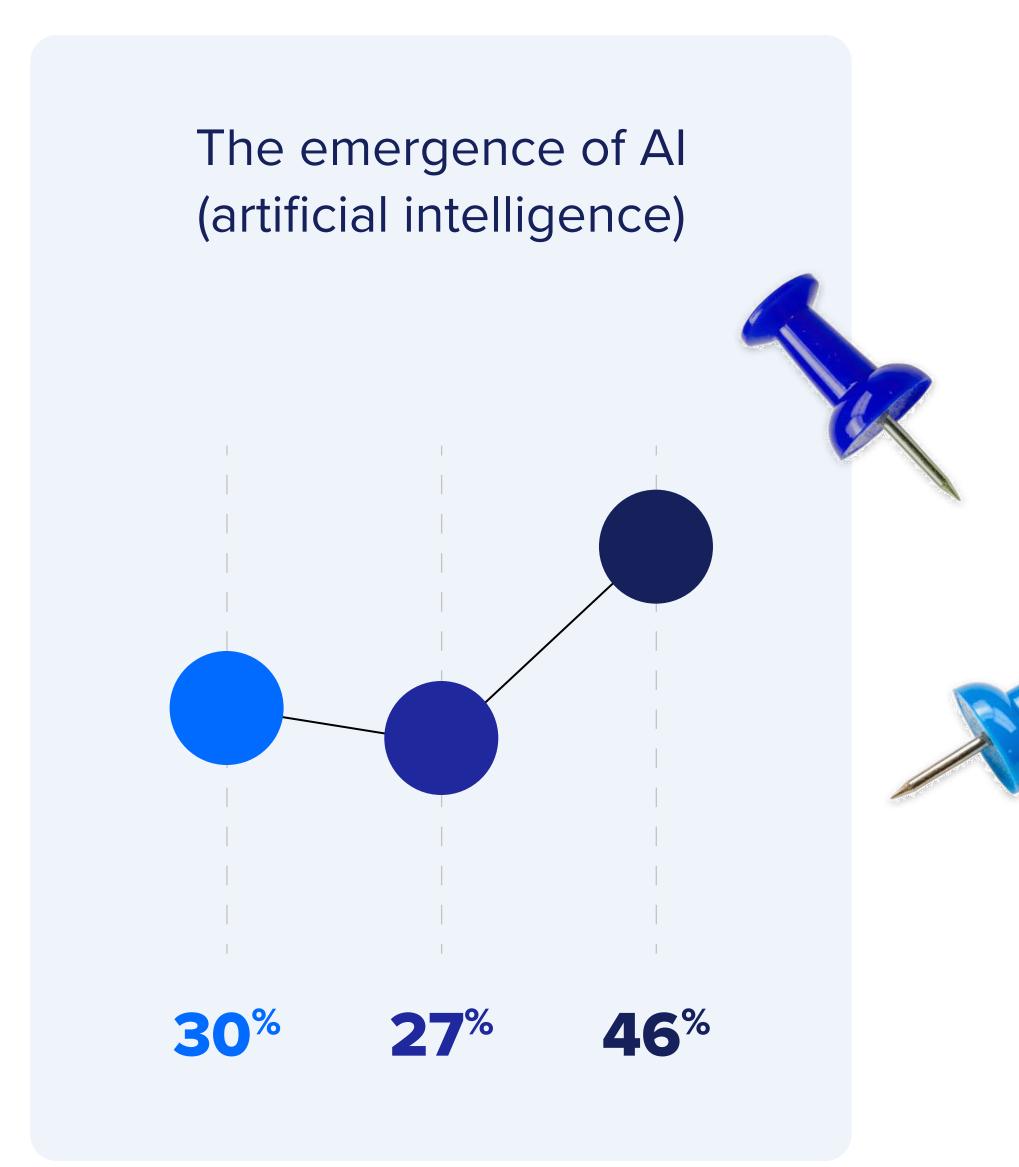








#### N. America EMEA APAC

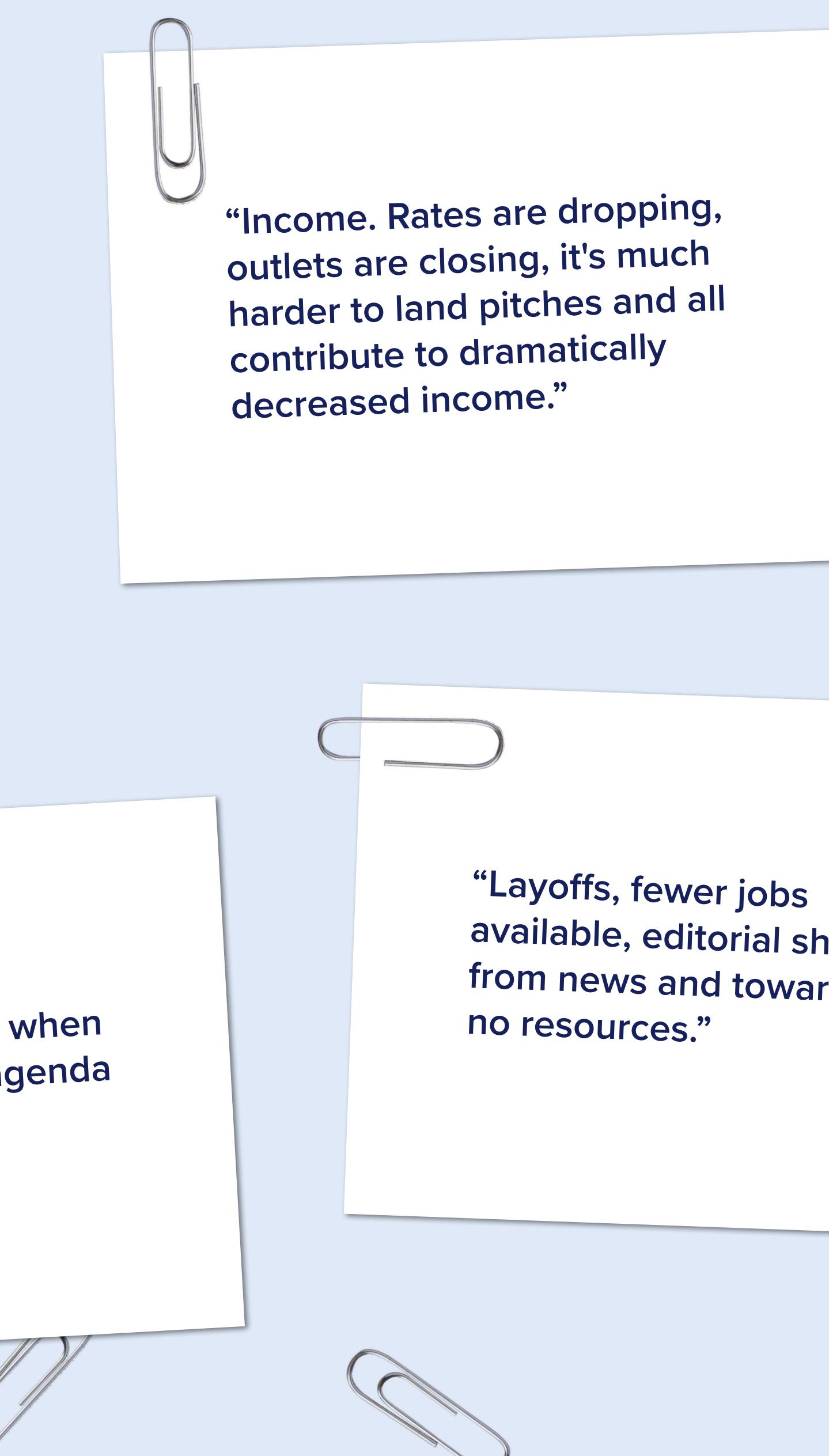


## In Their Own Words

We asked journalists to share some of their other big challenges – and there were recurring themes in their answers around financial compensation (mainly for freelancers), search engine algorithms, and trust and credibility.



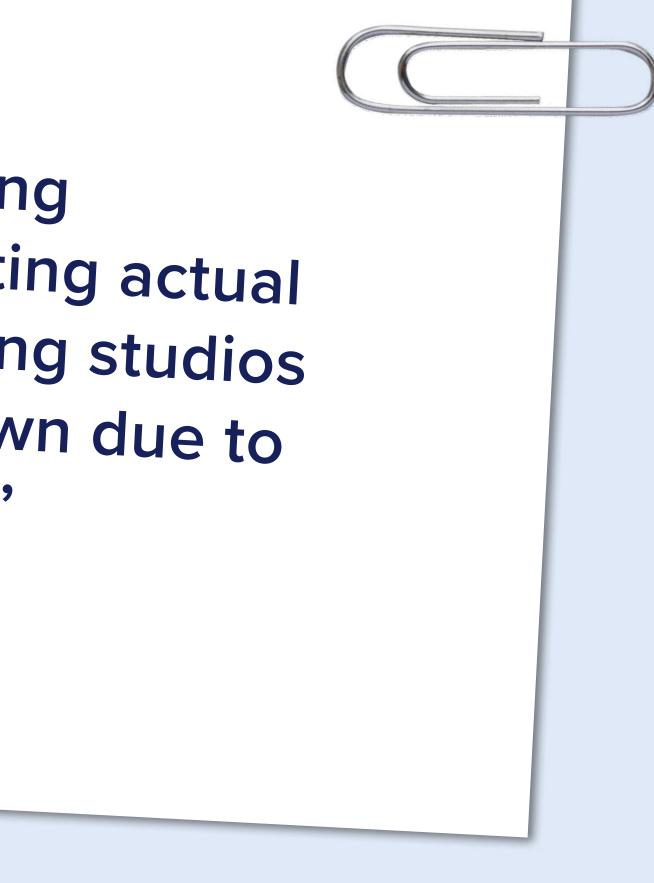
"Maintaining credibility when many outlets have an agenda and aren't objective."



"Google's changing algorithm [is] hurting actual content, and seeing studios and sites shut down due to low traffic from it."

## available, editorial shift away from news and toward sales,

on social media."



#### "[The] ability to reach audiences and monetize content."



# 

PR professionals may have little power over these challenges, but they can play a role in helping journalists navigate them, establishing themselves as trusted, valuable partners.

For instance, being mindful of journalists' deadlines and responding quickly to media inquiries will help assist reporters as they deal with increased workloads and diminishing resources. Transparency in your interactions is also critical, so don't make promises you can't keep. And the more data or verified research you can provide, the more you can help journalists in their fight against misinformation and accusations of "fake news."

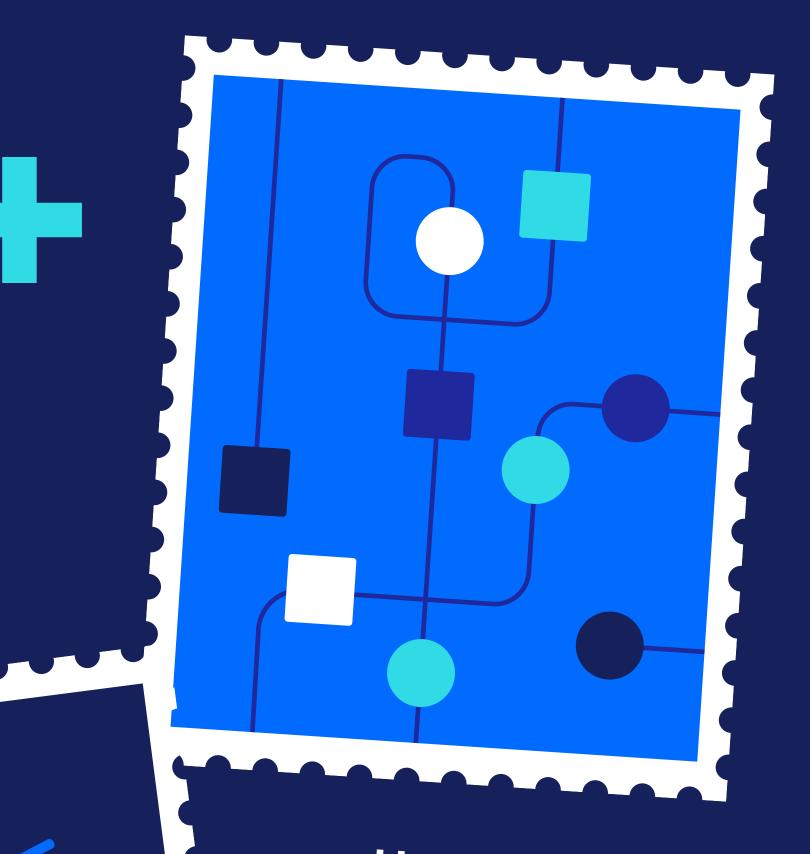


# 

Further, doing your research to ensure your pitches are right for the journalists and outlets limited time – or yours.

# you're pitching will ensure you aren't wasting their

Be mindful of journalists' deadlines by responding quickly to media inquiries



Have data and research to back up information you provide journalists



Communicate with transparency

09

# UNDERSTANDING JUKINALIS RELATIONSHIP

In PR, building relationships with journalists is paramount. Not only are reporters more likely to review pitches that come from someone they know and trust, but the better they know you, the more likely they are to proactively seek you out for help with stories – which can mean more media coverage for your client or brand. With that in mind, we asked journalists how PR professionals can take that critical first step to building those mutually beneficial relationships.

With Greetings From the 2025 State of the Media







300 S Riverside Plaza, Chicago, IL 60606

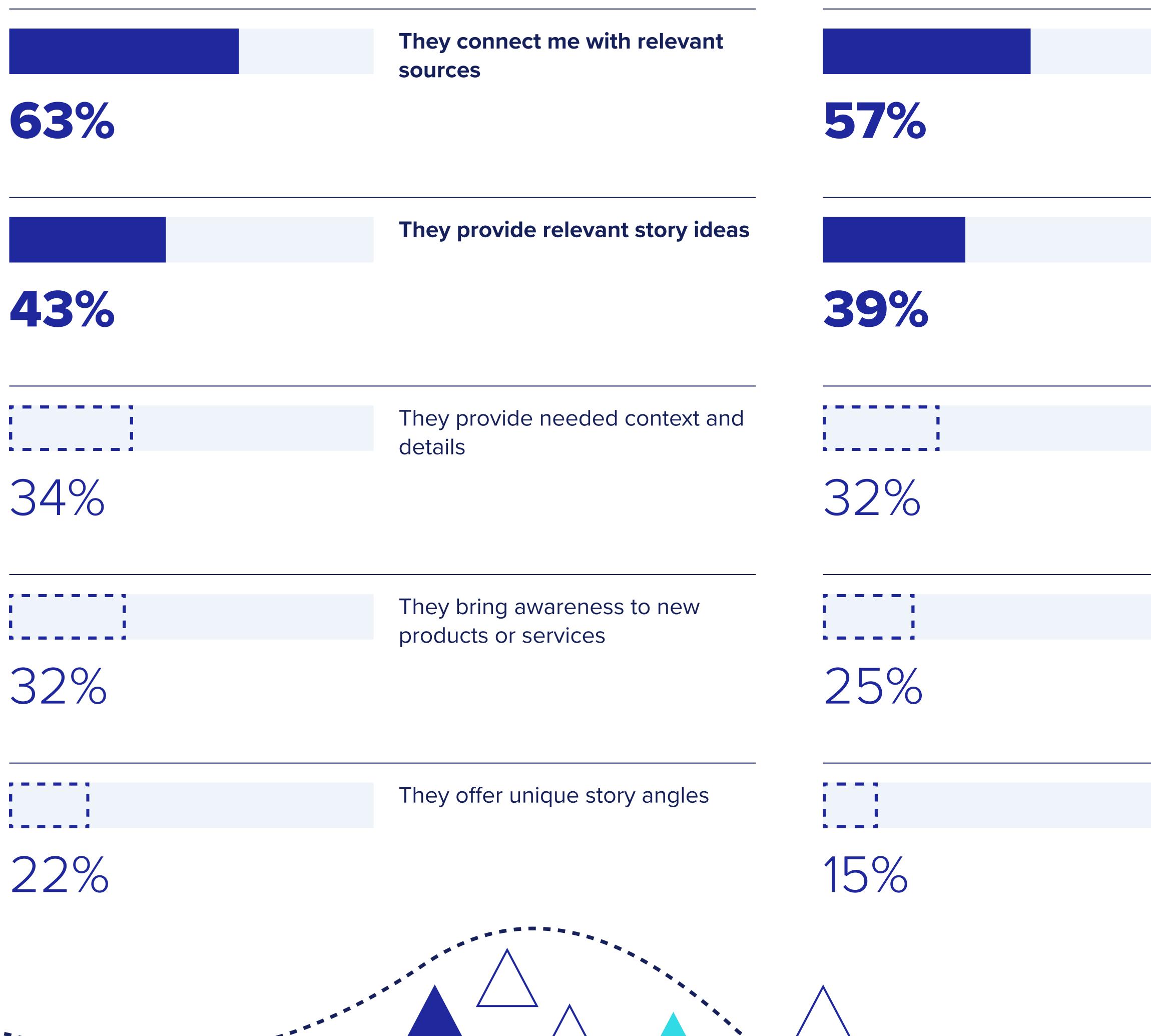
#### What Journalists **Appreciate About PR**

If you want to build a working relationship with a journalist, the first question to ask yourself is: "How can I provide value?" According to the feedback we got from journalists, a good place to start is with relevant sources and story ideas.

Globally, the top response when asked how PR professionals provide value was "they connect me with relevant sources." "Facilitating access to key people and places" and "providing relevant story ideas" rounded out the top three answers.

Access to exclusive news or content was also valued by more than a third of reporters worldwide (39%).

#### In your experience, what are some of the ways PR professionals provide value?

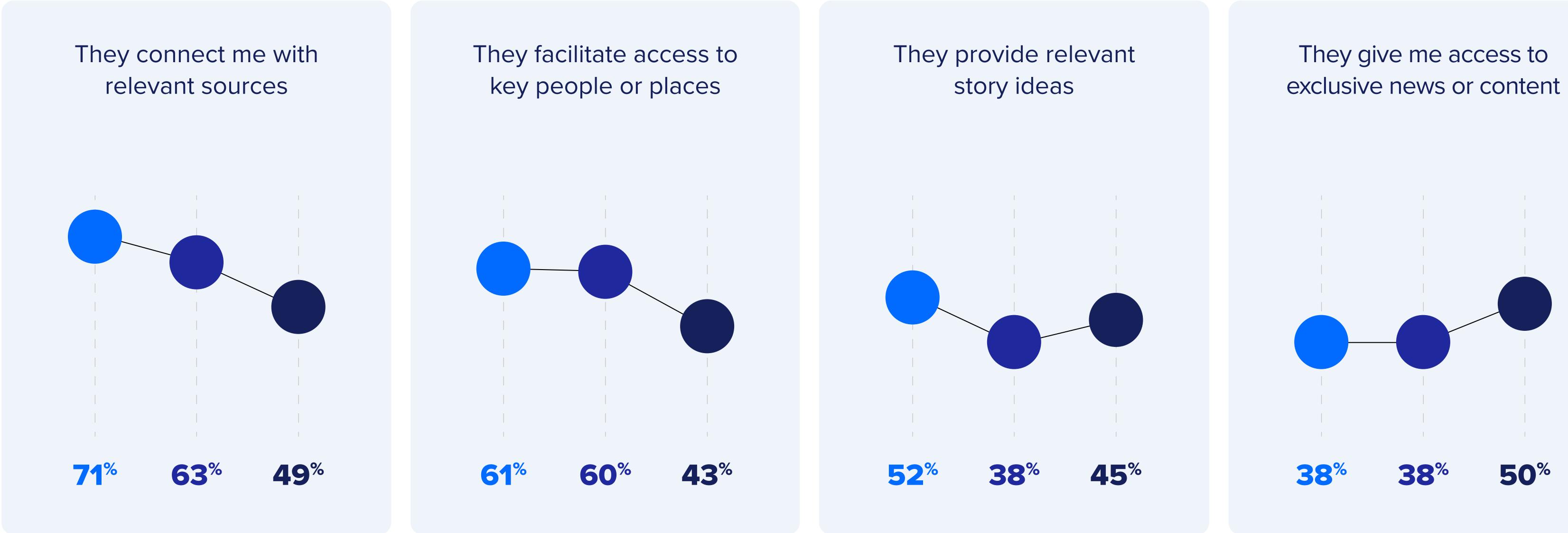


They facilitate access to key people or places
They give me access to exclusive news or content
They provide multimedia assets (video, images, infographics) to
supplement content
They bring awareness to breaking
news or trends that I can report on quickly
They provide critical updates
during times of crisis
11

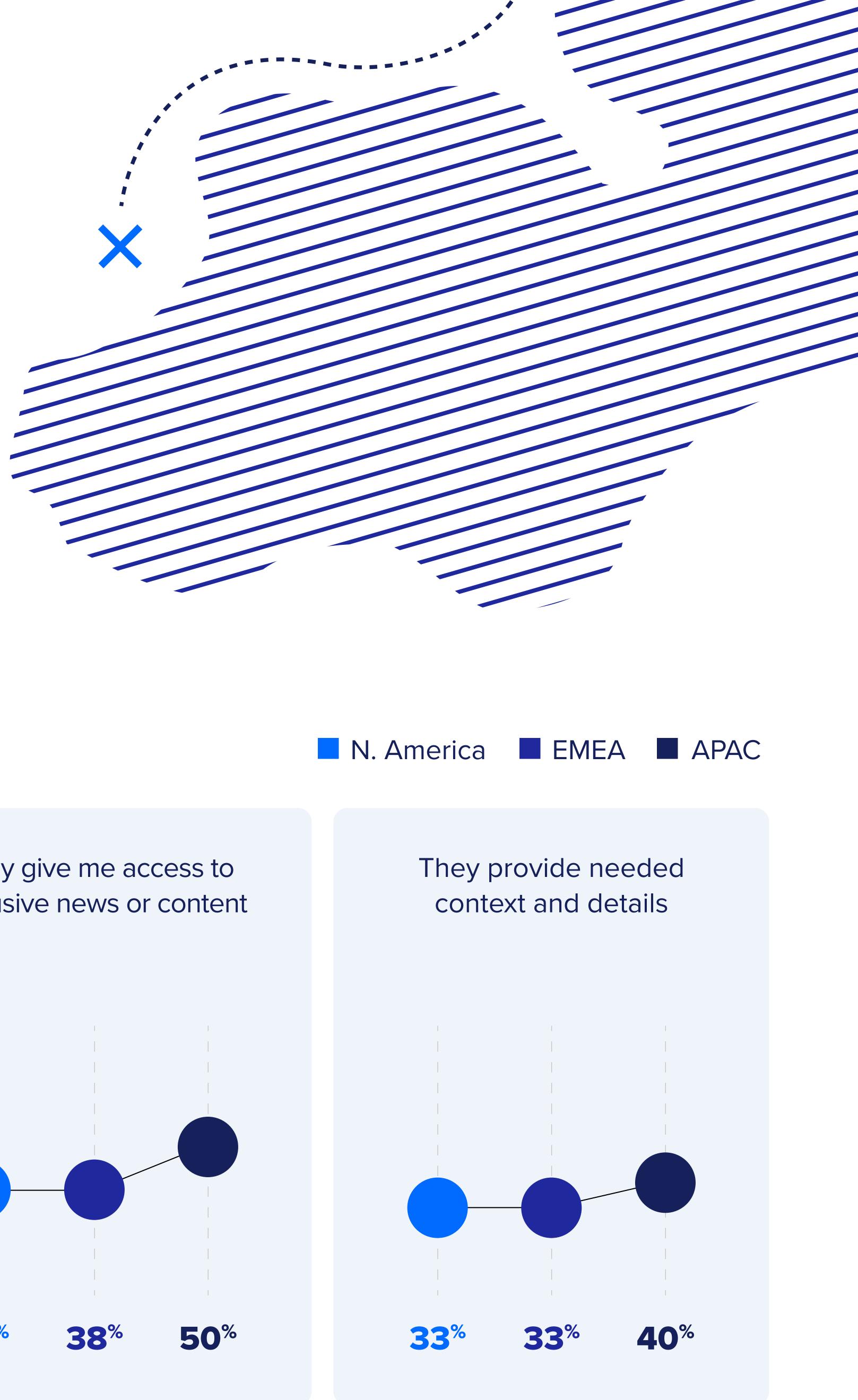
### Top Responses by Region

When looking at regional differences, access to exclusive news or content was the top choice across APAC (named by 50% of respondents), a substantial difference from the 38% who said the same in both EMEA and North America. Likewise, APAC journalists appear to place higher value on context and exclusivity more than their counterparts.

#### In your experience, what are some of the ways PR professionals provide value?



Another notable difference: North American journalists are significantly more likely to recognize PR professionals' ability to provide relevant sources and story ideas as prized attributes.



## In Their Own Words

Journalists also offered up their own thoughts on how PR pros can provide value. Several shared insights around relationship building and effective use of knowledge and resources.









"They often have greater resources than reporters and when they're compassionate and principled this can help create better coverage more quickly."

ones who add context and immediate pitching needs, and who actually want to build a working relationship, not a transactional one."

"Unique story angles are key. I'm not interested in 'content.' If the story isn't interesting to the PR professional, it won't be interesting to my readers, either."

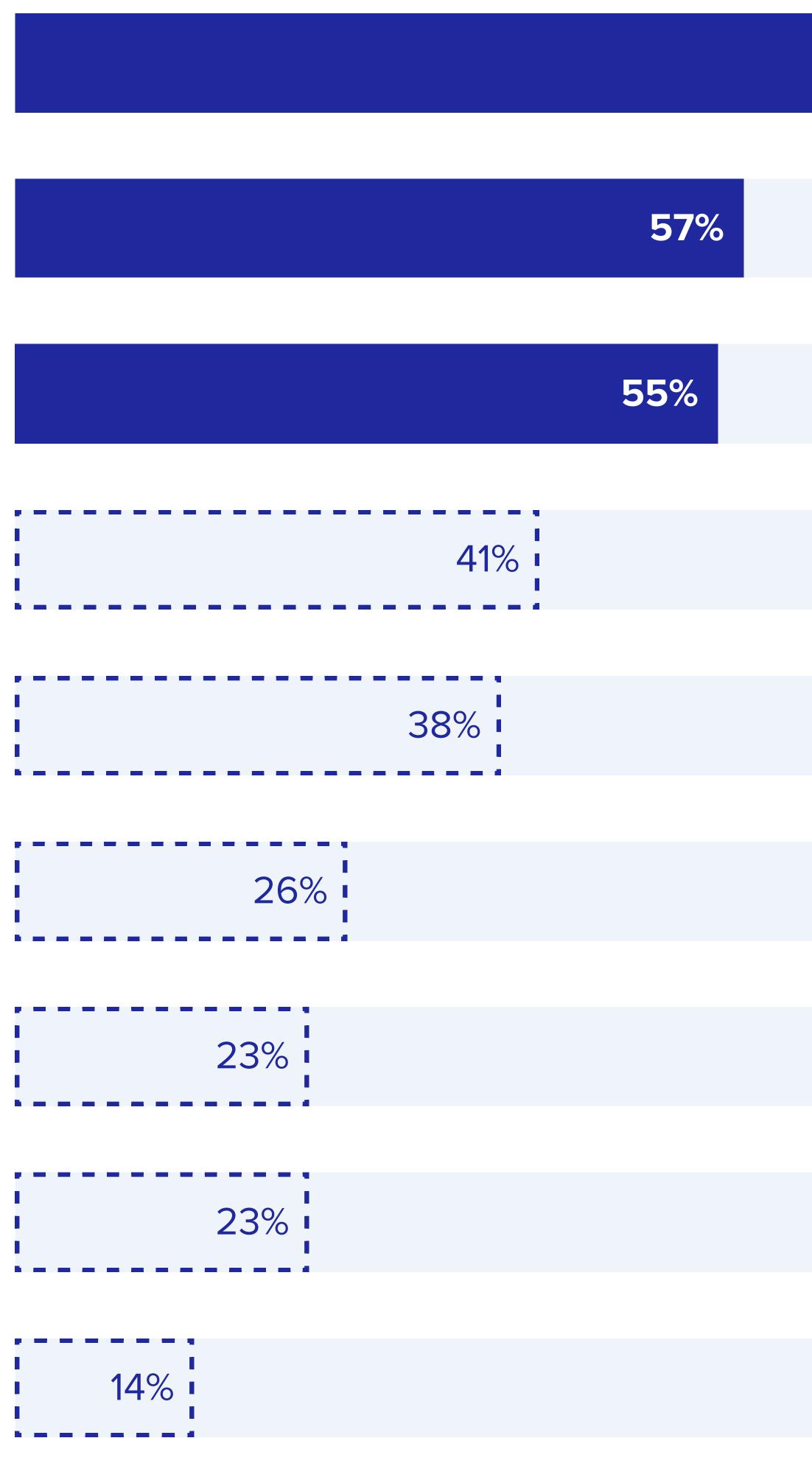


### What Journalists Want From PR

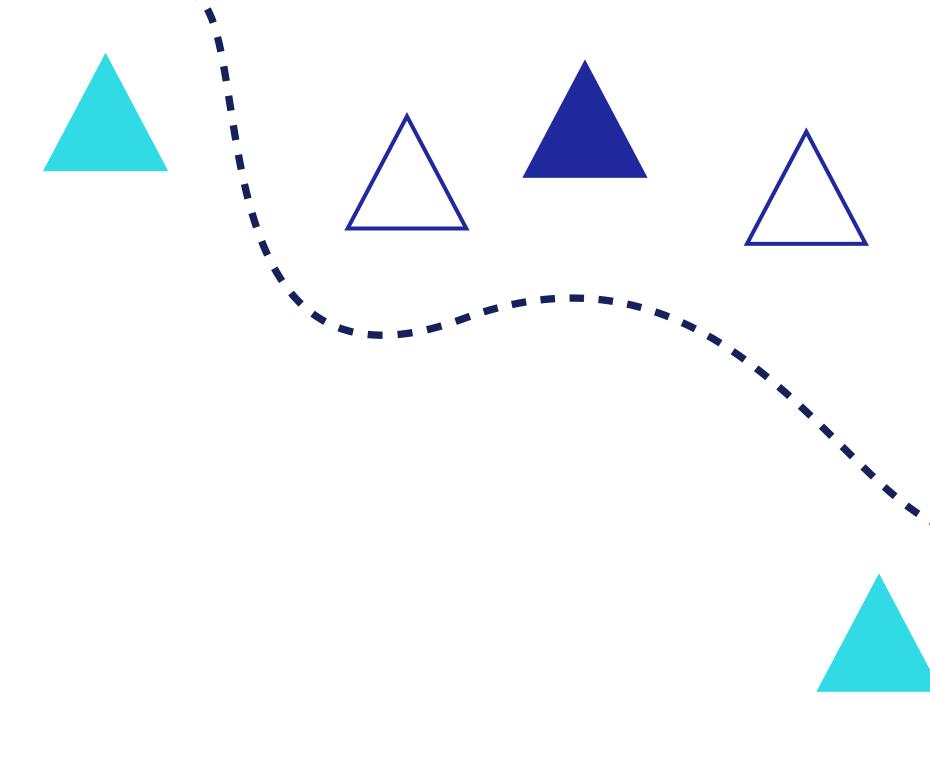
It's clear that journalists value PR professionals for many things they currently do, but we dug deeper to understand what else PR teams can do to set themselves apart – to go above and beyond by anticipating and proactively providing journalists with what they want.

And what they want most – a finding that is consistent with previous reports – is press releases. At a global level, press releases remain the most useful resource PR professionals can provide journalists. Story exclusives and original research are also requested by the majority of reporters.

#### What kind of content do you most want to receive from PR representatives?



72%	News announcemer
	Exclusives for storie
	Original research rep
	Access to events
	Interviews with indus
	Multimedia (e.g. vide
	Company statement
	Products/samples to
	Bylined articles or gu



#### ents/press releases

es

#### eports (e.g. trends, market data, etc.)

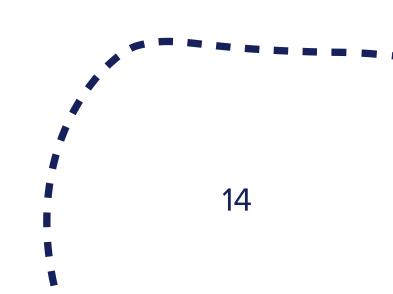
ustry experts

leos, images, infographics, etc.)

nts regarding ongoing news stories

o test

guest posts

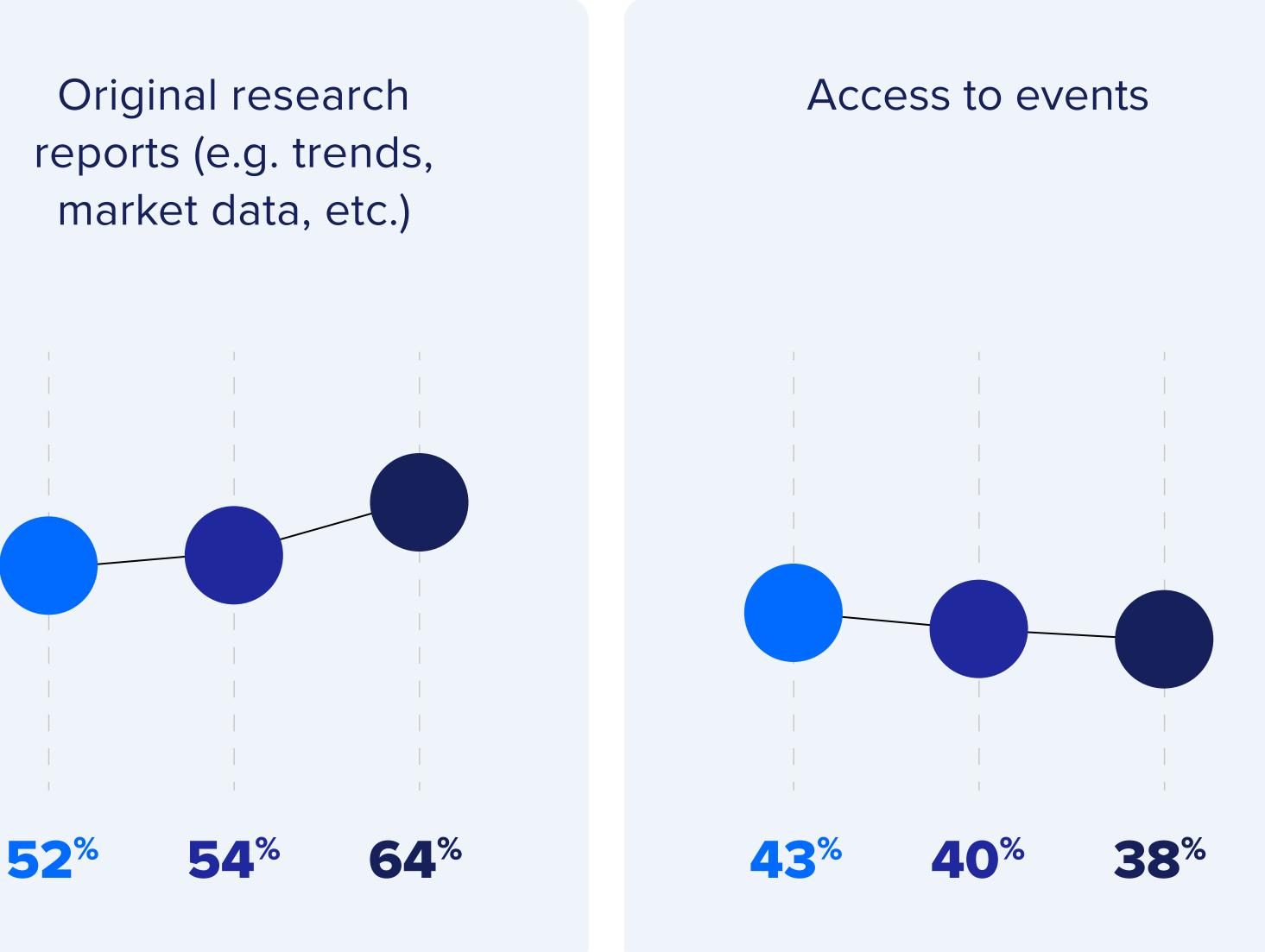


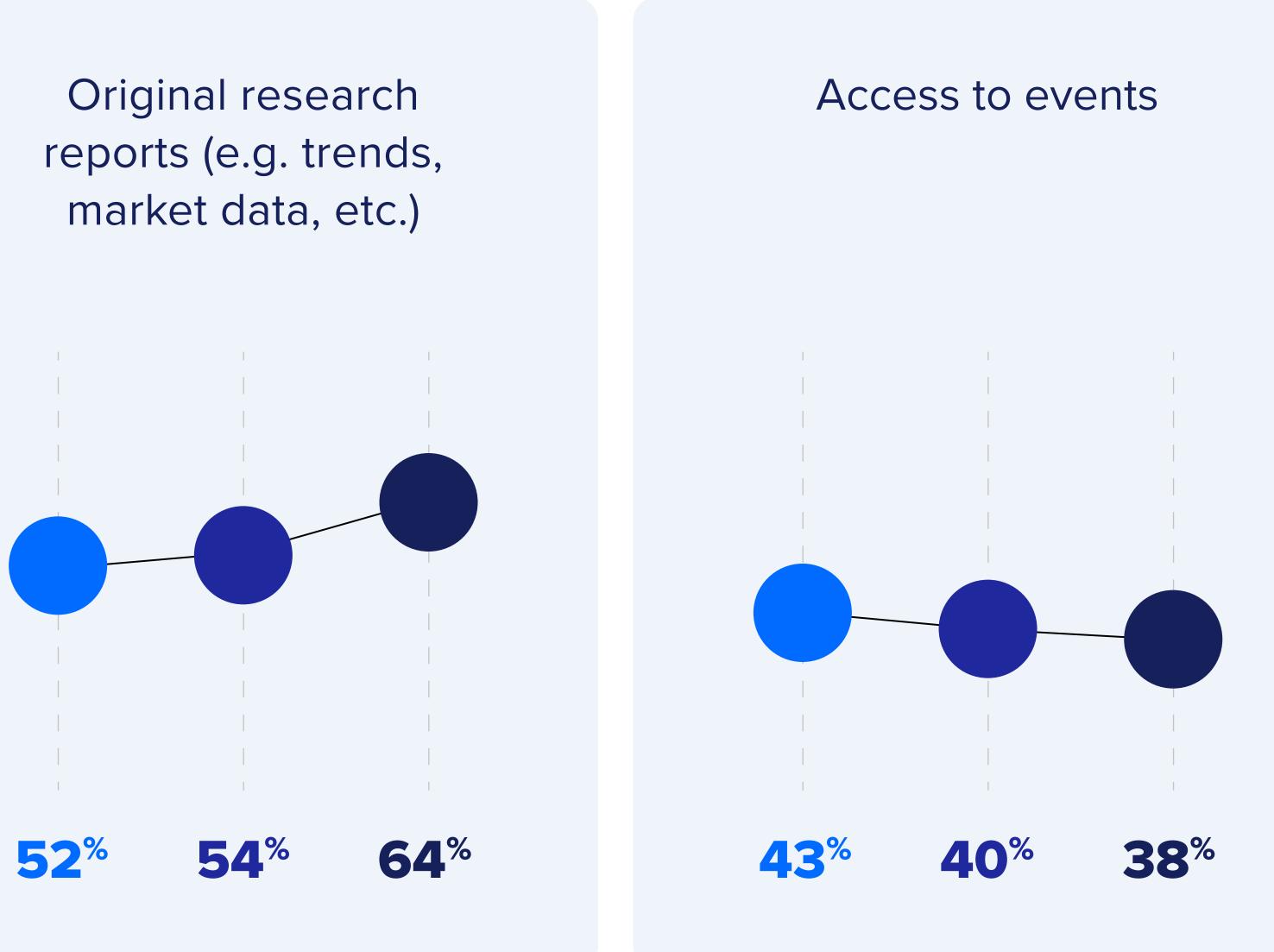
### **Top Responses** by Region

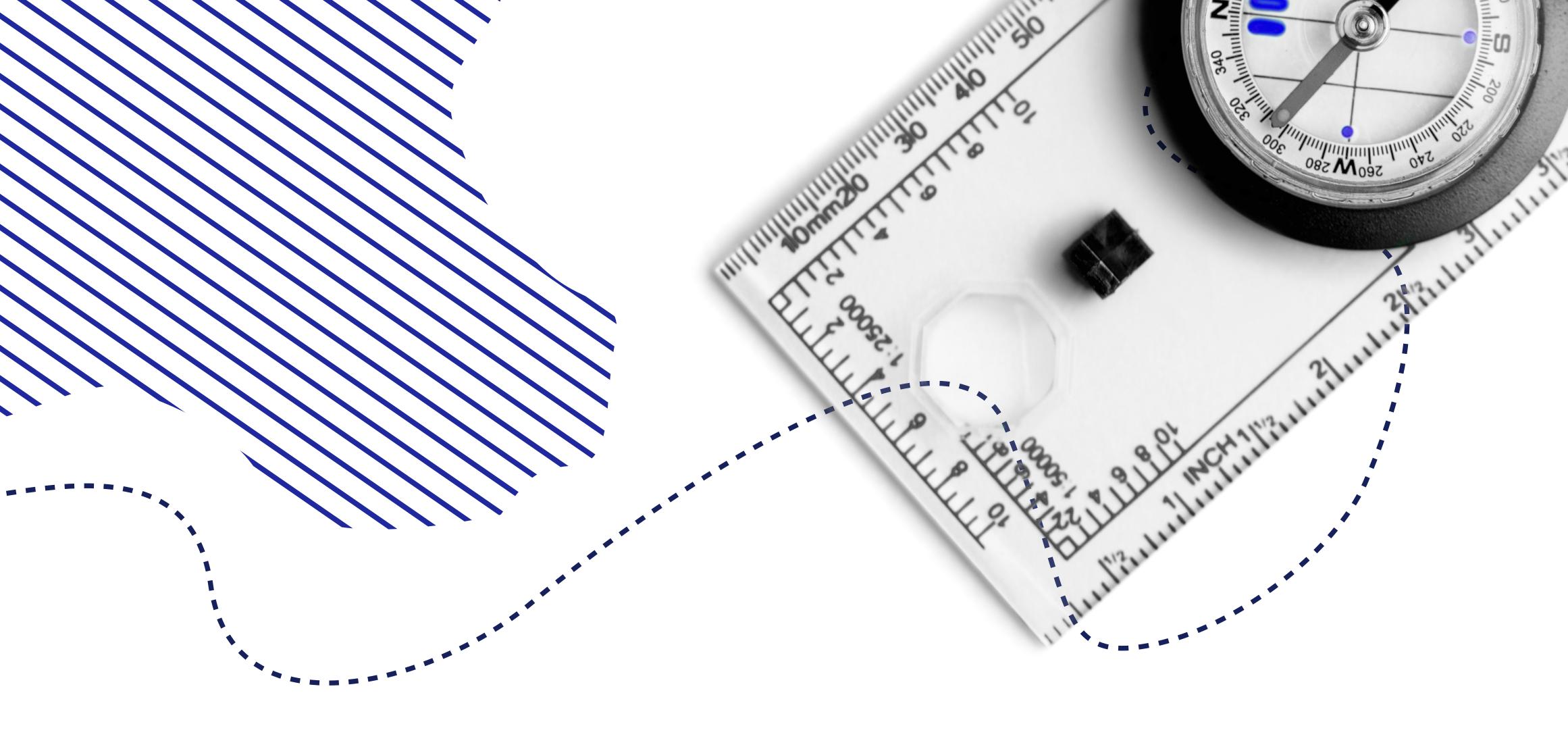
However, when broken down at a regional level, original research outweighs everything else for APAC journalists, followed by exclusives for stories. These journalists are also more likely to be drawn to interviews with industry experts and multimedia.

#### What kind of content do you most want to receive from PR representatives?









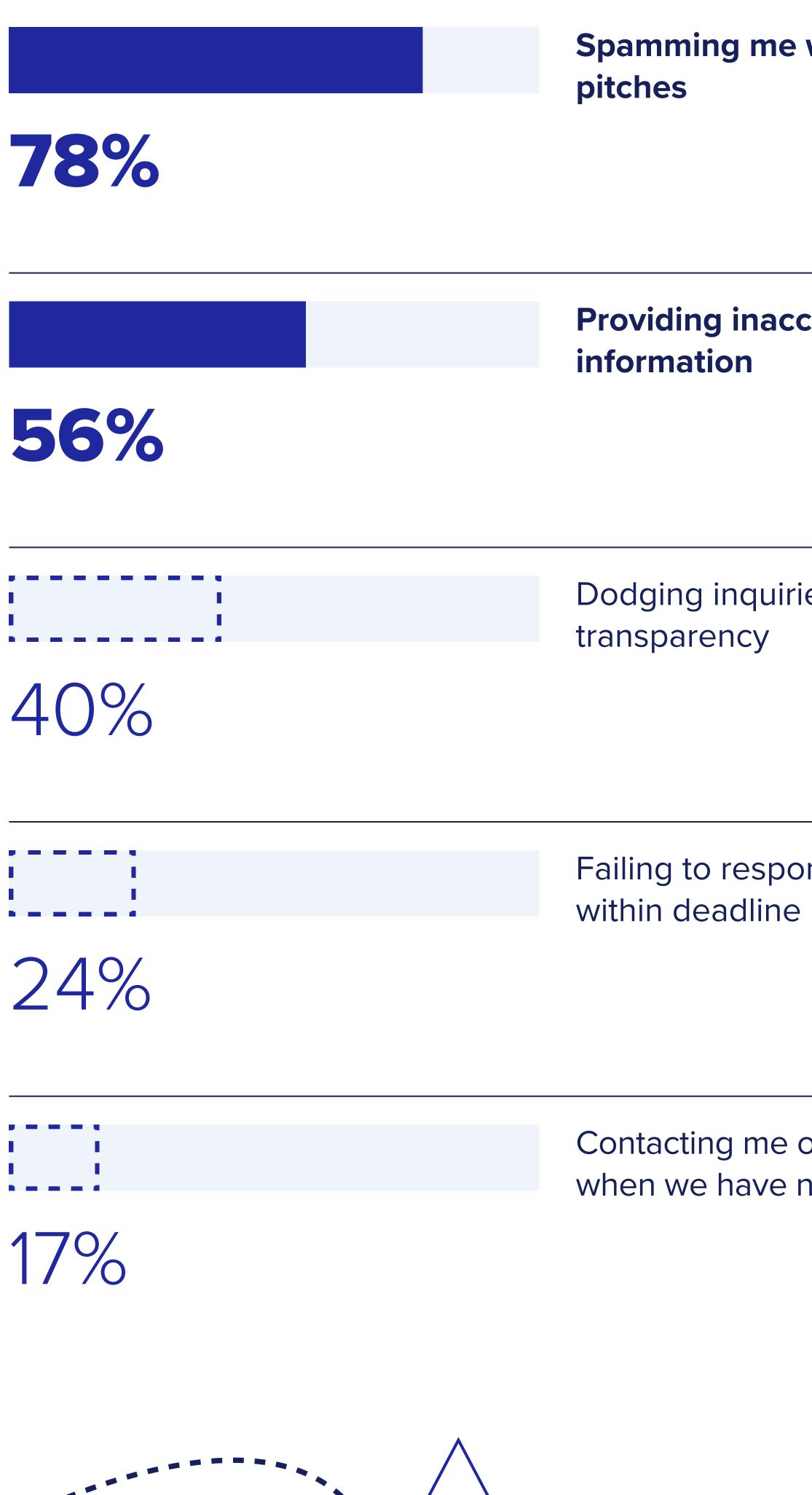




### What Journalists Don't Want

If there's anything just as (or more) important than understanding what journalists want, it's knowing what they don't want. When asked to indicate the practices they have no patience for, "spamming" them with irrelevant pitches took the top spot (though journalists in APAC seem to be much more forgiving with this one), followed by pitches that come across as glorified advertisements. Providing inaccurate or unsourced information rounded out the top three offenses for all the regions (which makes sense, given journalists' struggles to fight misinformation).

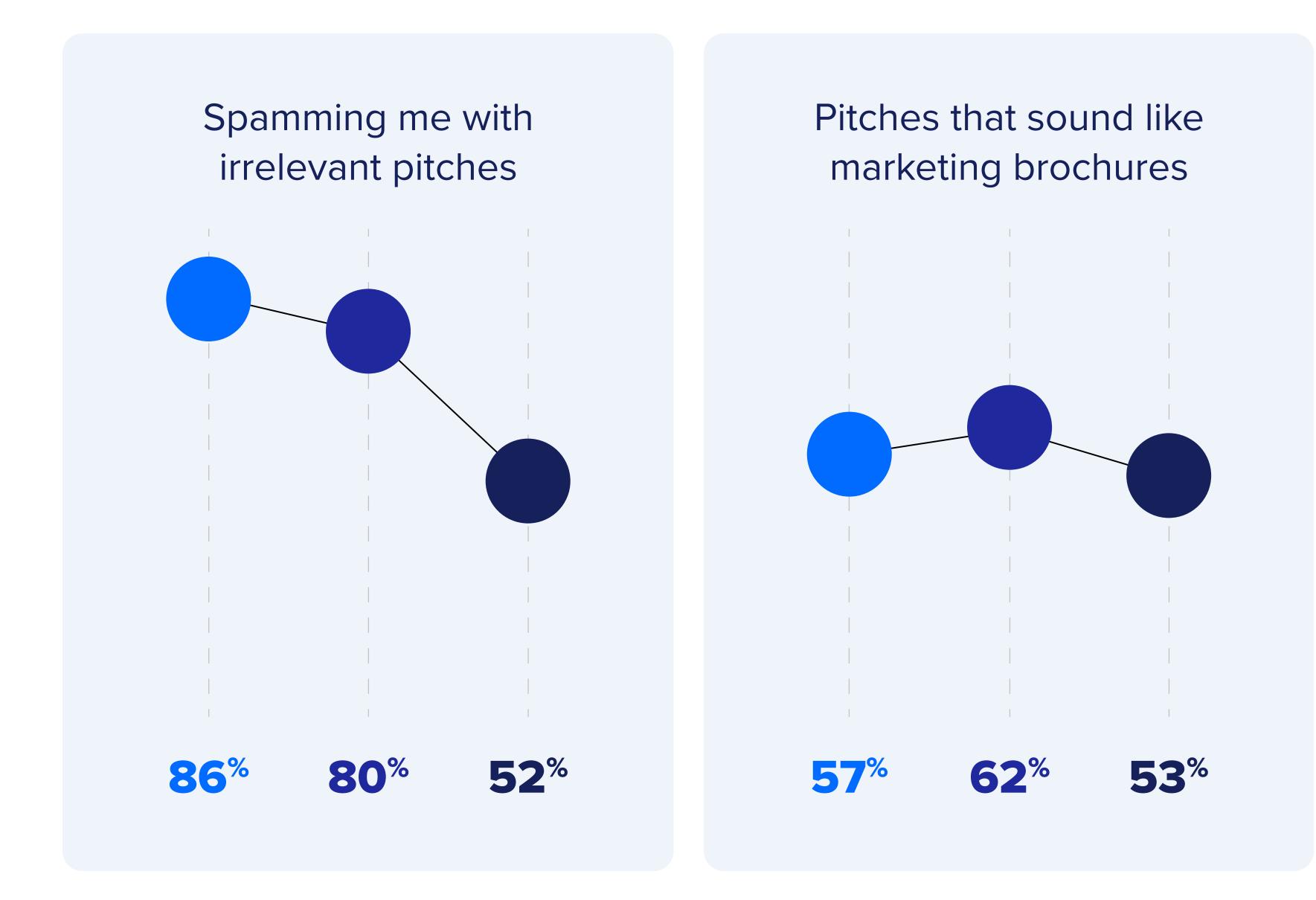
#### What would make you block a PR professional or put them on your "don't call" list?



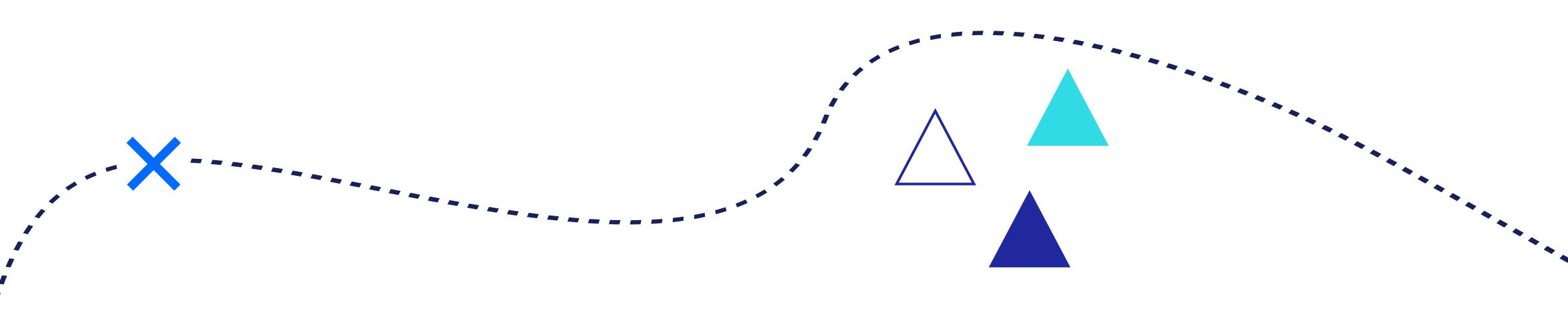
e with irrelevant		Pitches that sound like marketing brochures
	59%	
curate or unsourced		Following up with me repeatedly
	<b>52%</b>	
ries/lack of		Canceling on me last minute
	26%	
ond to me same day/ e		Addressing me by the wrong name
	19%	
on social media never met		Attaching files to emails (instead of embedding links)
	7%	

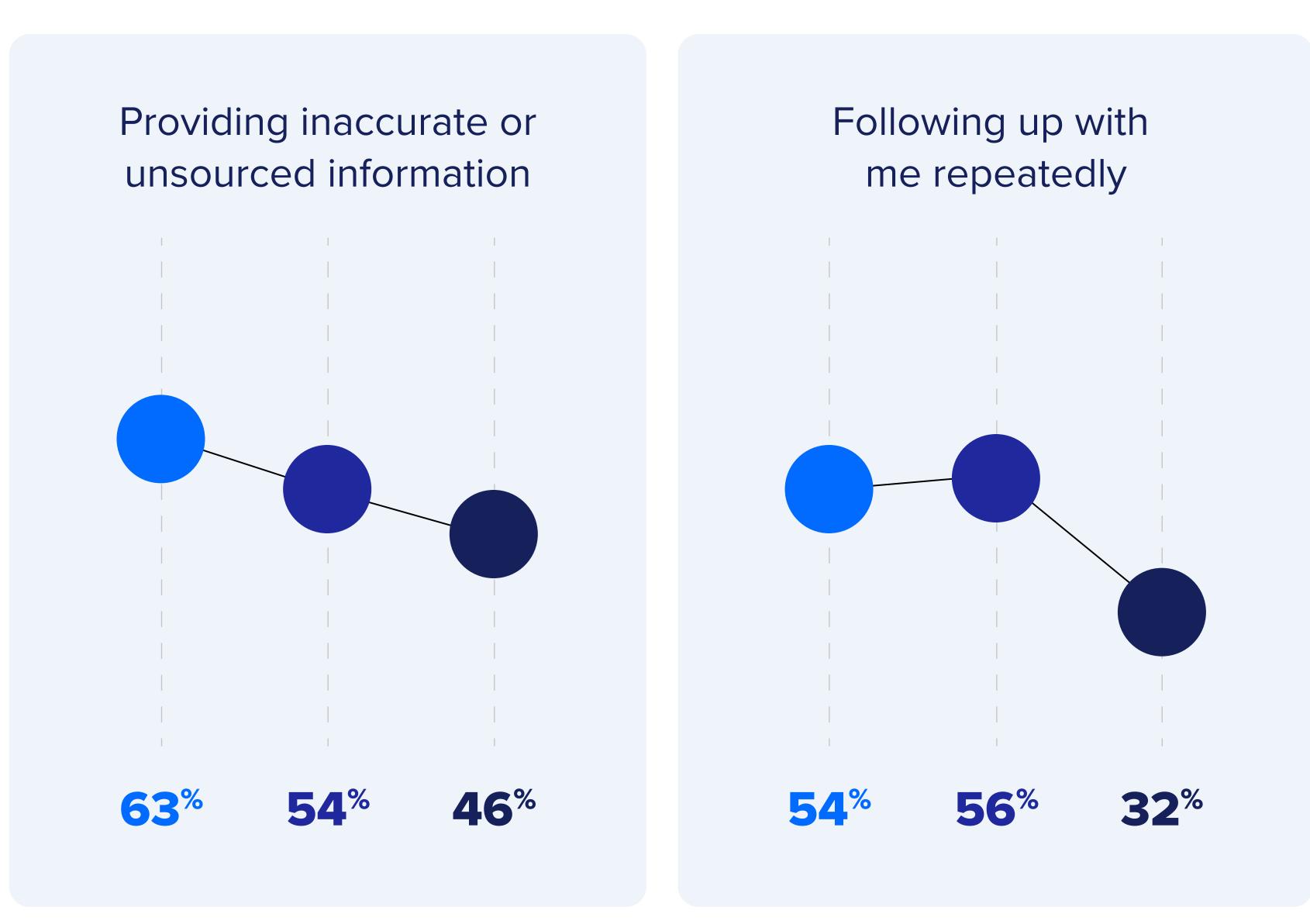
#### **Top Responses** by Region

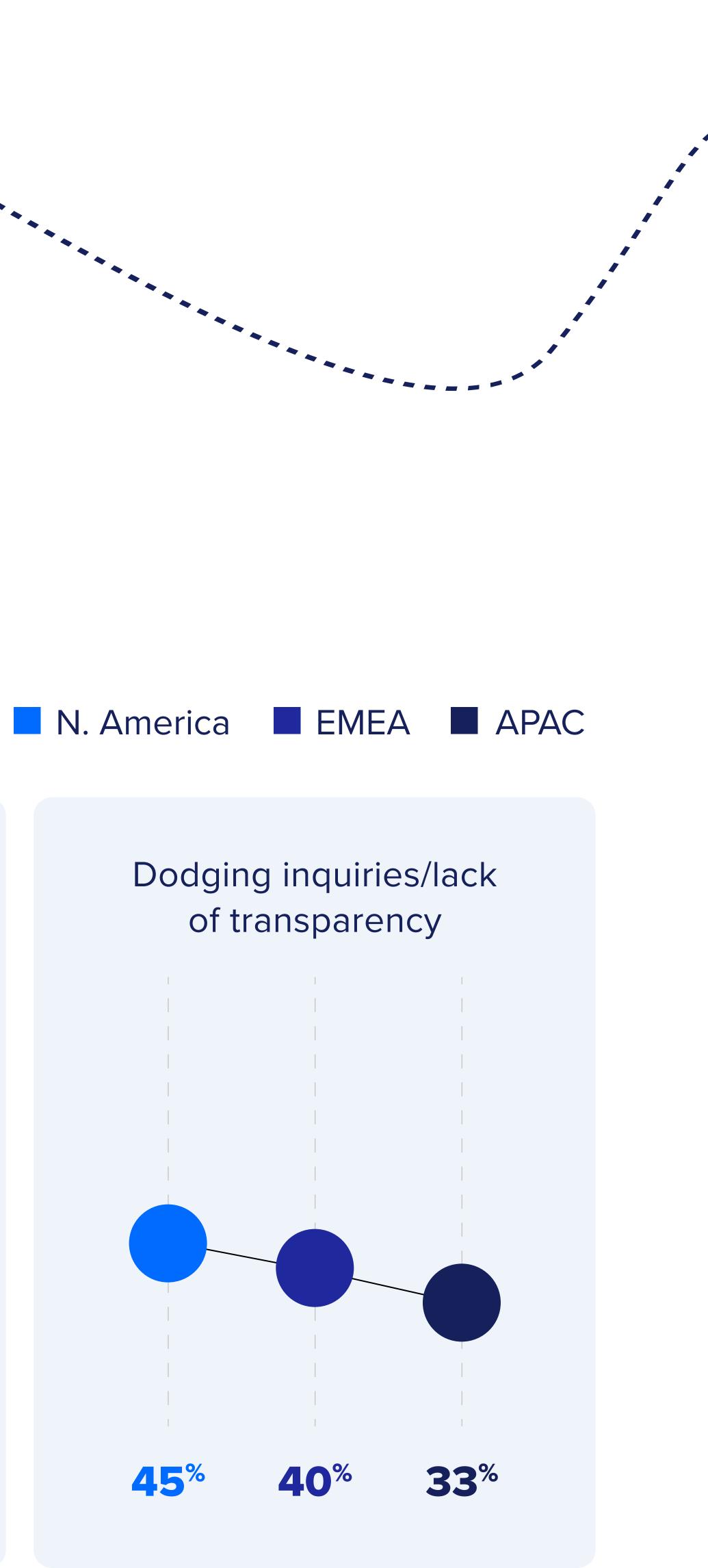
#### What would make you block a PR professional or put them on your "don't call" list?



-----







17

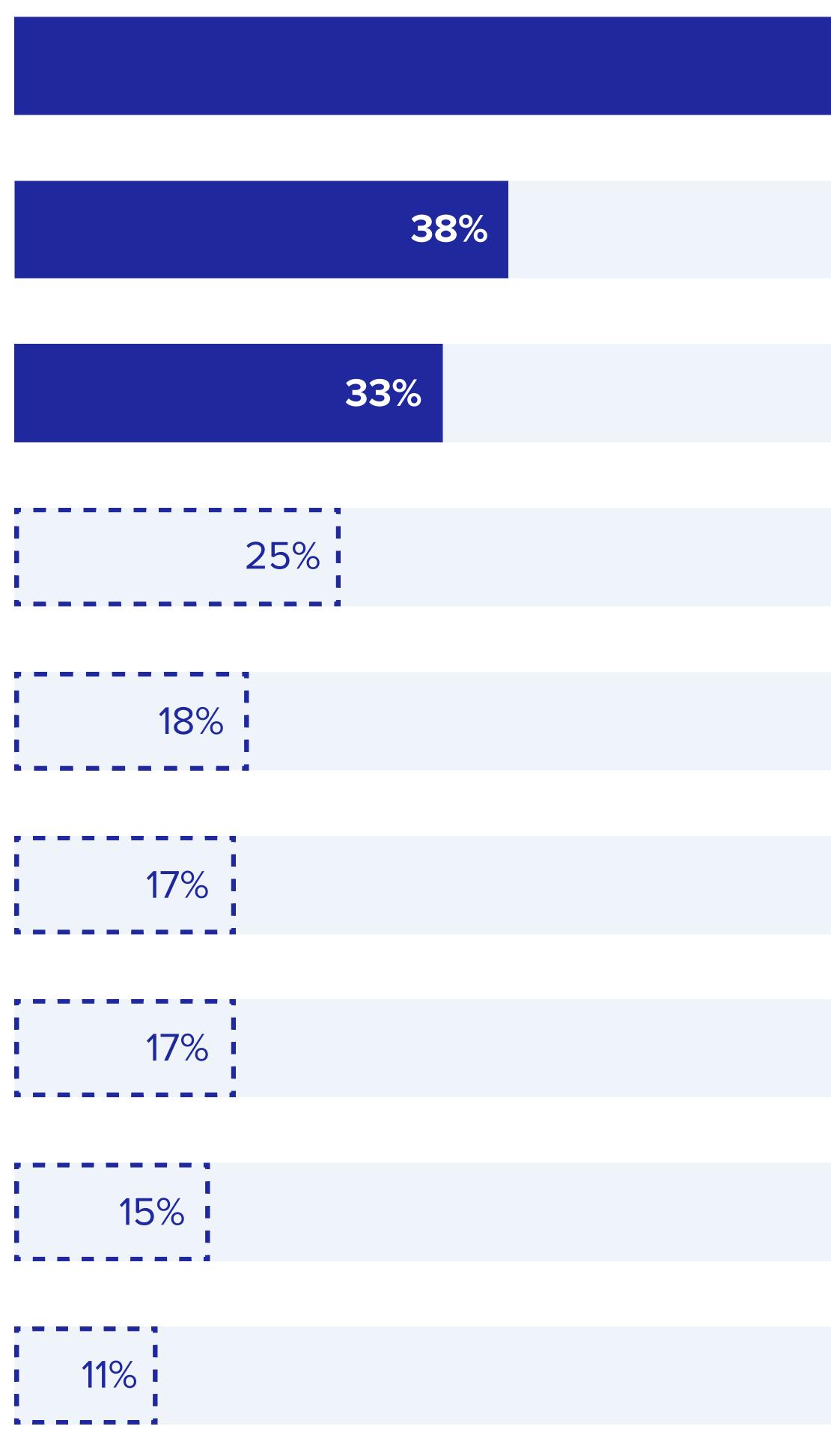
# Making the Connection

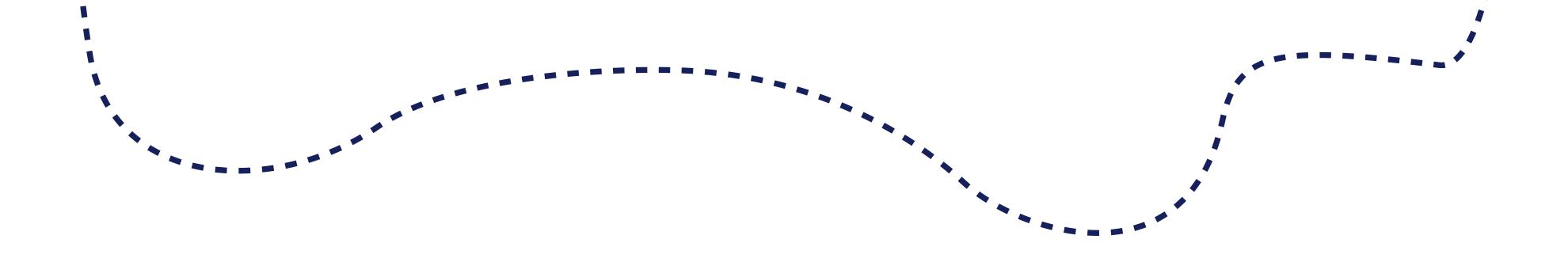
Journalists are so inundated with pitches that building a relationship can be challenging – but not impossible. In fact, most are open to it, but the right approach is key. So this year, we asked journalists how PR professionals should go about making that first step.

The number one answer across all regions was a surprisingly simple one: "Send me an email telling me why you want to connect." An overwhelming 85% of respondents chose this method, far ahead of the second and third most popular answers: Pitching a new, relevant story idea and inviting them to an industry event.



## For PR professionals who want to focus on building professional relationships with journalists, what is the best way for them to connect with you/introduce themselves?





85%	Introduce yourself o to connect
	Pitch me a new, rele
	Invite me to an indu
	Connect with me on
	Send digital/physical
	Contact me directly o
	Follow me on social
	Ask a mutual connec
	Request a media des

#### over email & tell me why you want

#### levant story idea

#### ustry event

LinkedIn

l press kit

on the phone

media

ection to introduce us

eskside

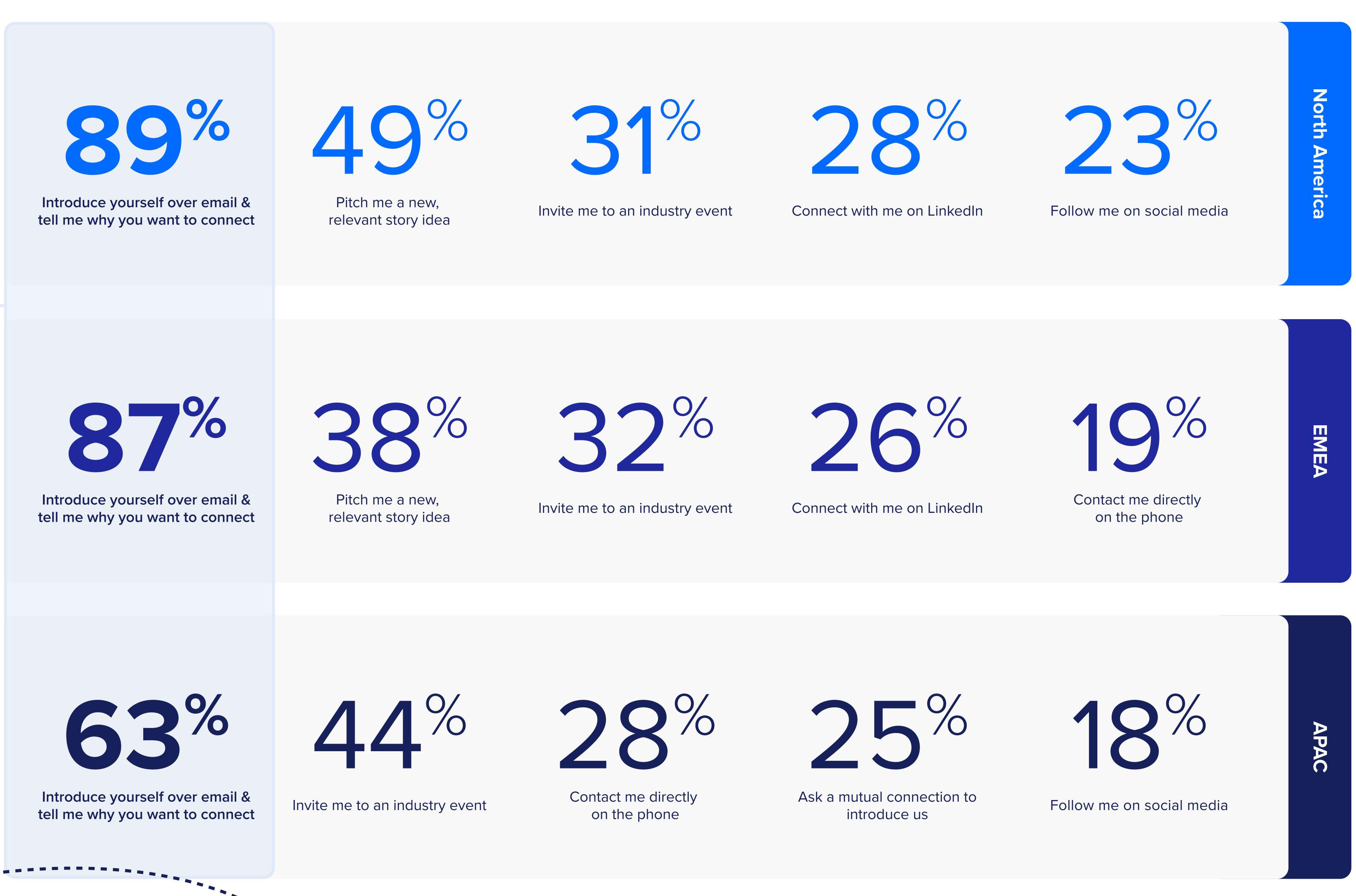
#### **Top Responses** by Region

Once again, preferences differ by region. In APAC, for instance, a phone call or an introduction through a mutual contact can go a long way, while connecting on LinkedIn would be a wiser move in North America or EMEA.

#### ALL

"Introduce yourself over email & tell me why you want to connect," was the top response across all regions.

#### For PR professionals who want to focus on building professional relationships with journalists, what is the best way for them to connect with you/introduce themselves?



## In Their Own Words

We asked journalists to provide any additional advice for establishing connections with the media.





"Know at least a little about me and the kinds of things I'm interested in, rather than just pitch me wildly on everything."



# EVERY INTERACTION

If there's one thing to take away from these findings, it's that every interaction with a journalist is an opportunity to build a mutually beneficial working relationship.

While a single pitch may not generate instant coverage, it can be a conversation starter that leads to something bigger down the line. It's true that some journalists prefer to keep their interactions with PR professionals transactional (which is understandable, given their workloads and industry challenges); however, most welcome and appreciate PR outreach.

Find opportunities to connect with journalists beyond cold calls and pitches (think industry events and LinkedIn), and lead with content that demonstrates your value. Then focus on prioritizing relationships with the journalists who do engage and show interest in partnering together.



**Find opportunities** to connect and build relationships with journalists



# UNCOVERING JOURNALISTS' PITCHING PREFERENCES

While building relationships in PR is crucial, it doesn't guarantee media coverage. More often than not, securing media placement comes down to having a good pitch. In this section, we explore why certain pitches capture journalists' attention and, perhaps more tellingly, why others don't.

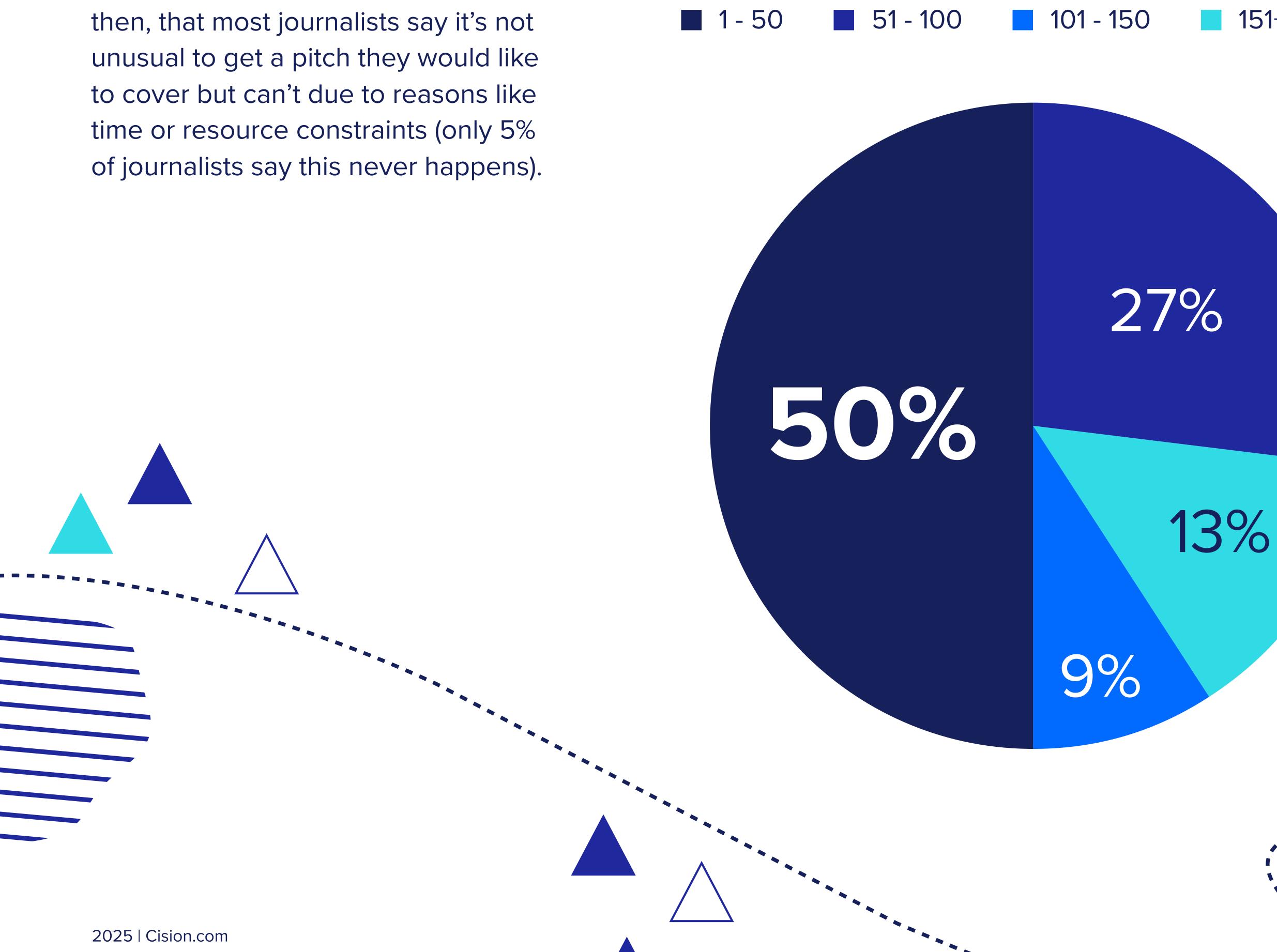
With Greetings From the 2025 State of the Media





#### **Perfecting the Pitch**

The first thing to understand is that journalists are inundated with pitches. Half of journalists receive over 50 pitches per week, meaning there's a lot of competition for attention and the odds are already against you. It follows



#### On average, how many pitches do you receive a week (including emails, phone calls, social media messages, etc.)?\*

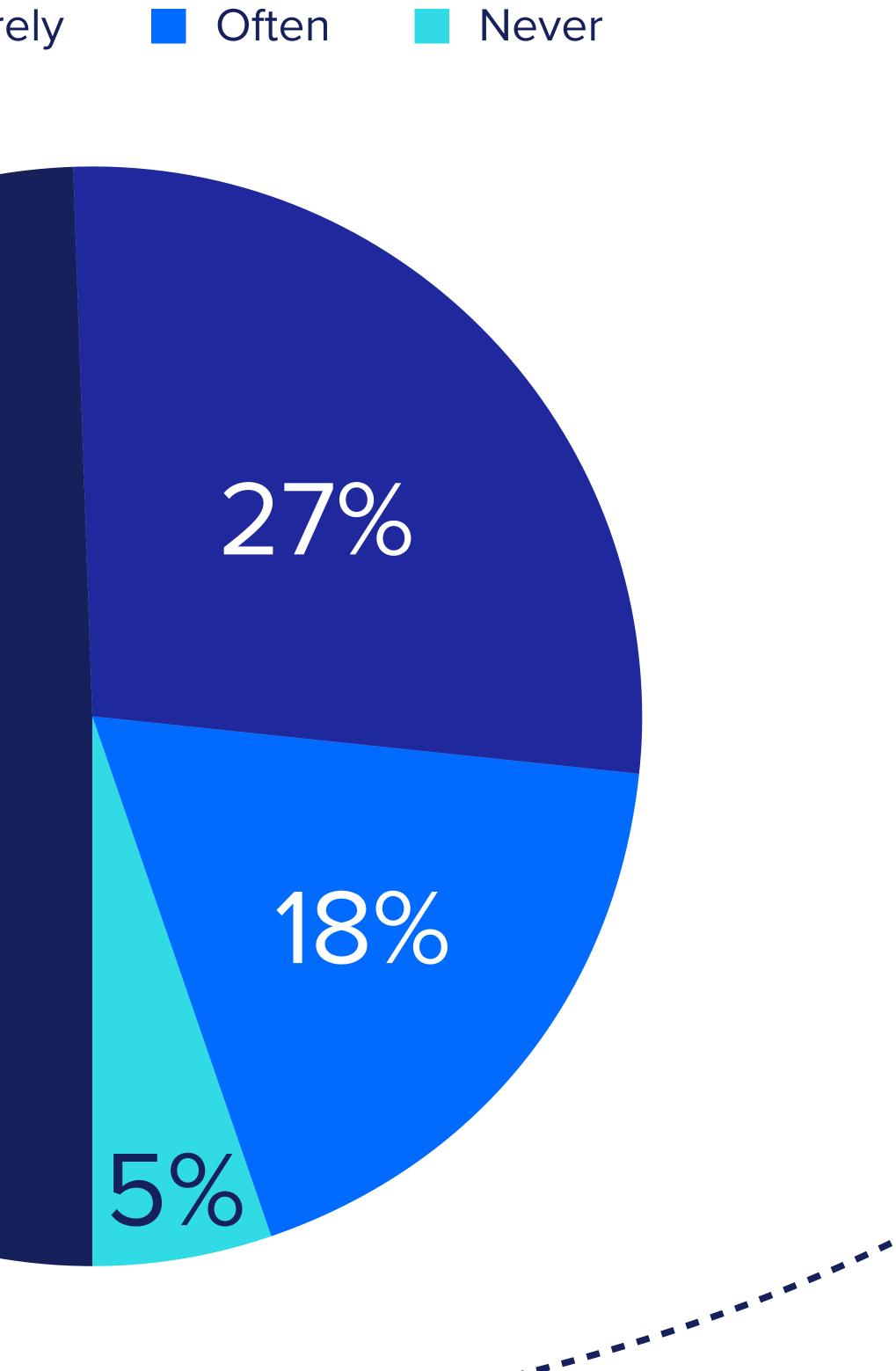
#### 151+

#### How often do you get media pitches that you'd like to cover, but can't (due to time/ resource constraints, the need to prioritize other news stories, etc.)?\*

Rarely **Sometimes** 



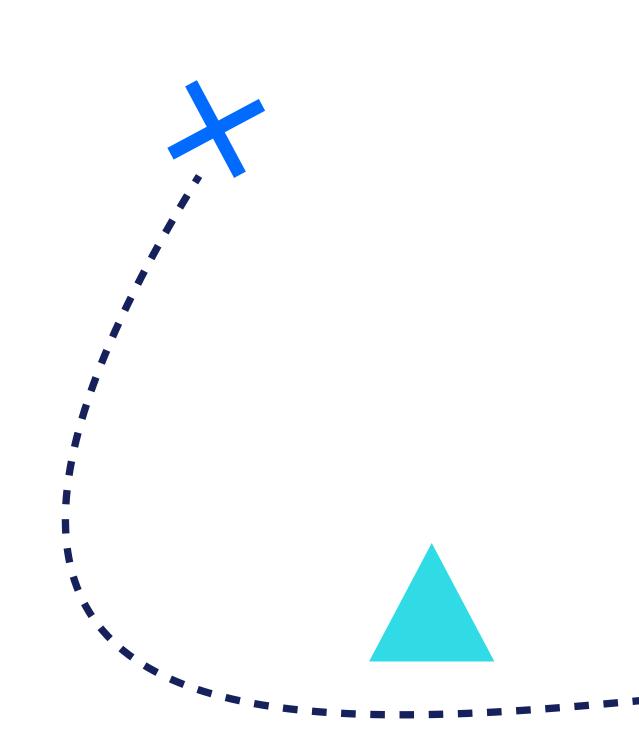
\*1% chose not to answer



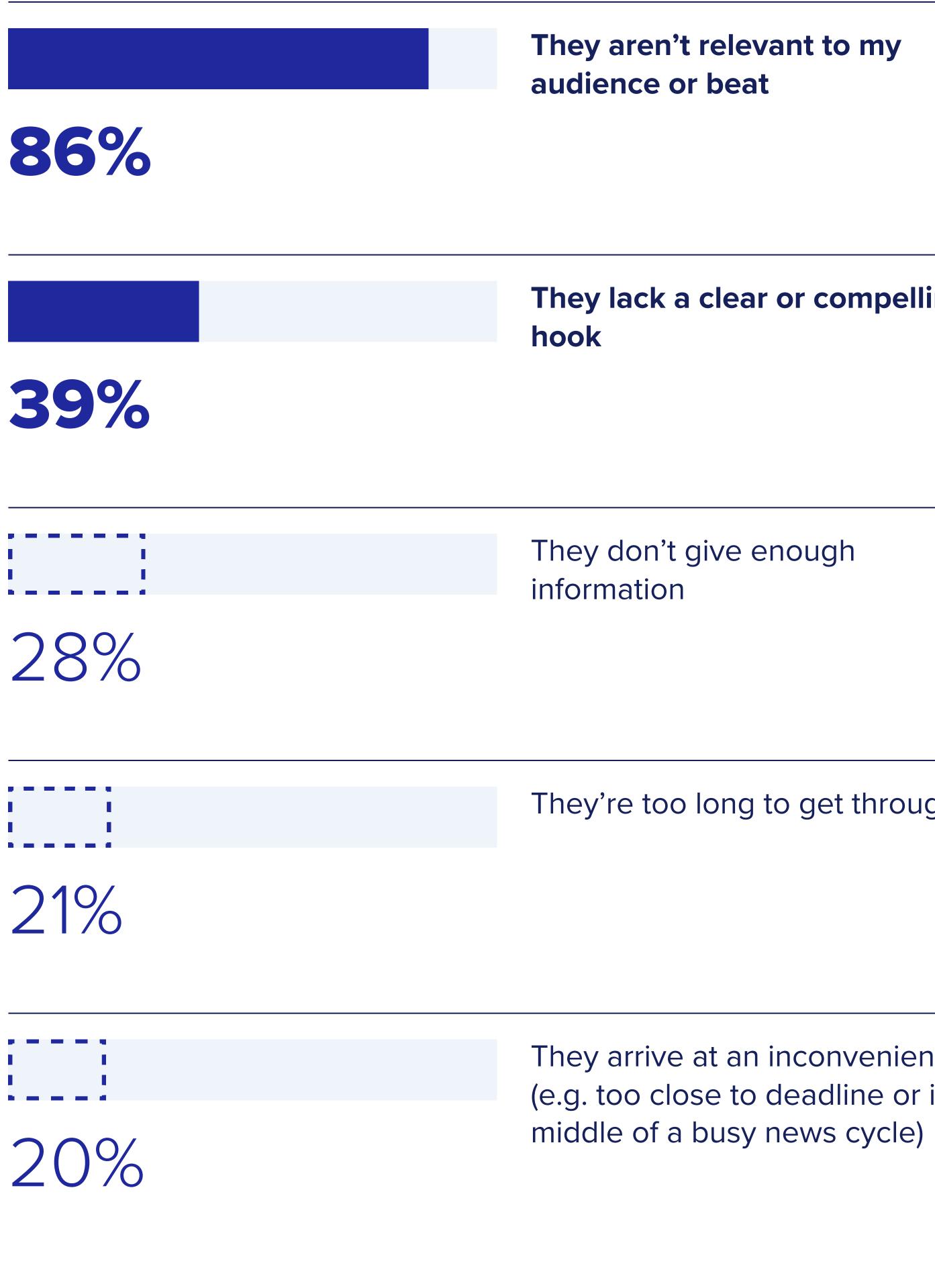
### Why Some Pitches Miss the Mark

One of the biggest frustrations for PR professionals is spending time formulating a pitch and sending it out into the world, only to hear nothing back. With that in mind, we sought to understand why some pitches end up in that elusive black hole.

The number one reason a pitch never makes it past a journalist's inbox is that it lacks relevance (which makes sense, given that relevance plays a major role in how PR professionals provide value). A pitch that lacks substance is also far more likely to go straight to the trash folder.



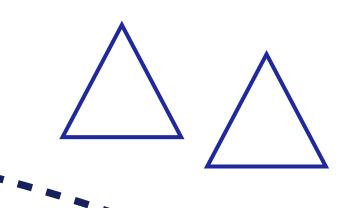
#### What are the biggest reasons you reject a pitch?

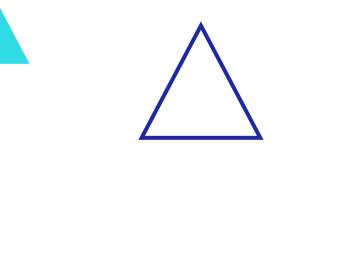


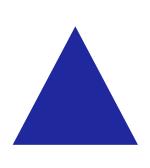


levant to my eat	70%
ear or compelling	35%
e enough	27%
ng to get through	20%
an inconvenient time to deadline or in the	

- 12%







#### They are too promotional and lack substance

#### They aren't compelling enough

They're poorly written

They are too similar to content I've recently covered

There's no contact information/way to follow up

## In Their Own Words

When we asked journalists to articulate other reasons they reject or ignore pitches, the most common answers alluded to the need for more localization and personalization, and less commercialization.

"They are addressed generically, or it says, "Dear XX" where my name is supposed to be."

2025 | Cision.com



"The PR professional misspells my name or sends me a pitch for something I already covered – essentially, it's clear they don't know who they're pitching to."

"They're filled with endless, poorly written prose instead of clearly presenting facts."

"Lately, pitches have not been offering new or creative angles. There is also little understanding of my outlet. More consideration should be given toward tailoring the pitch to the outlet and its recent output."

#### "90% concern issues from outside our circulation area."

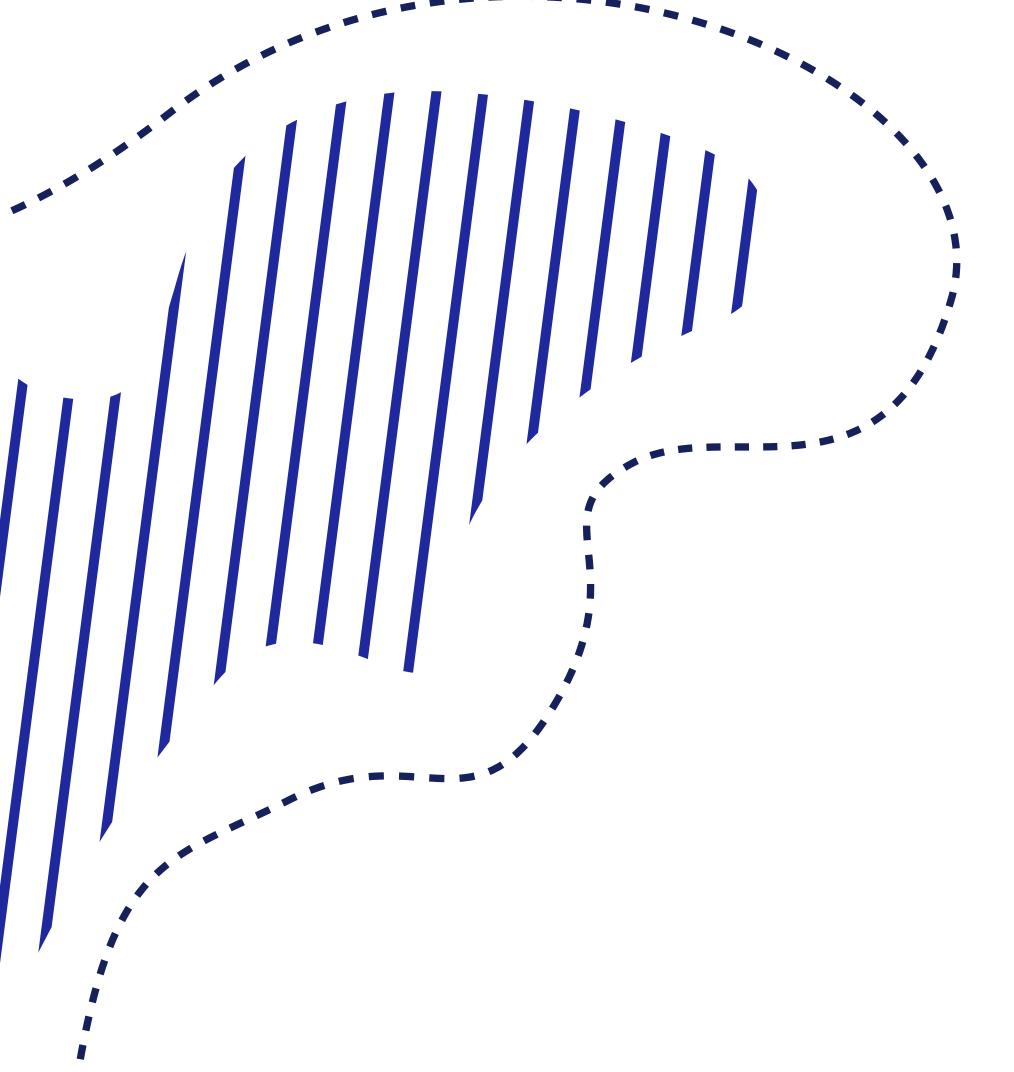




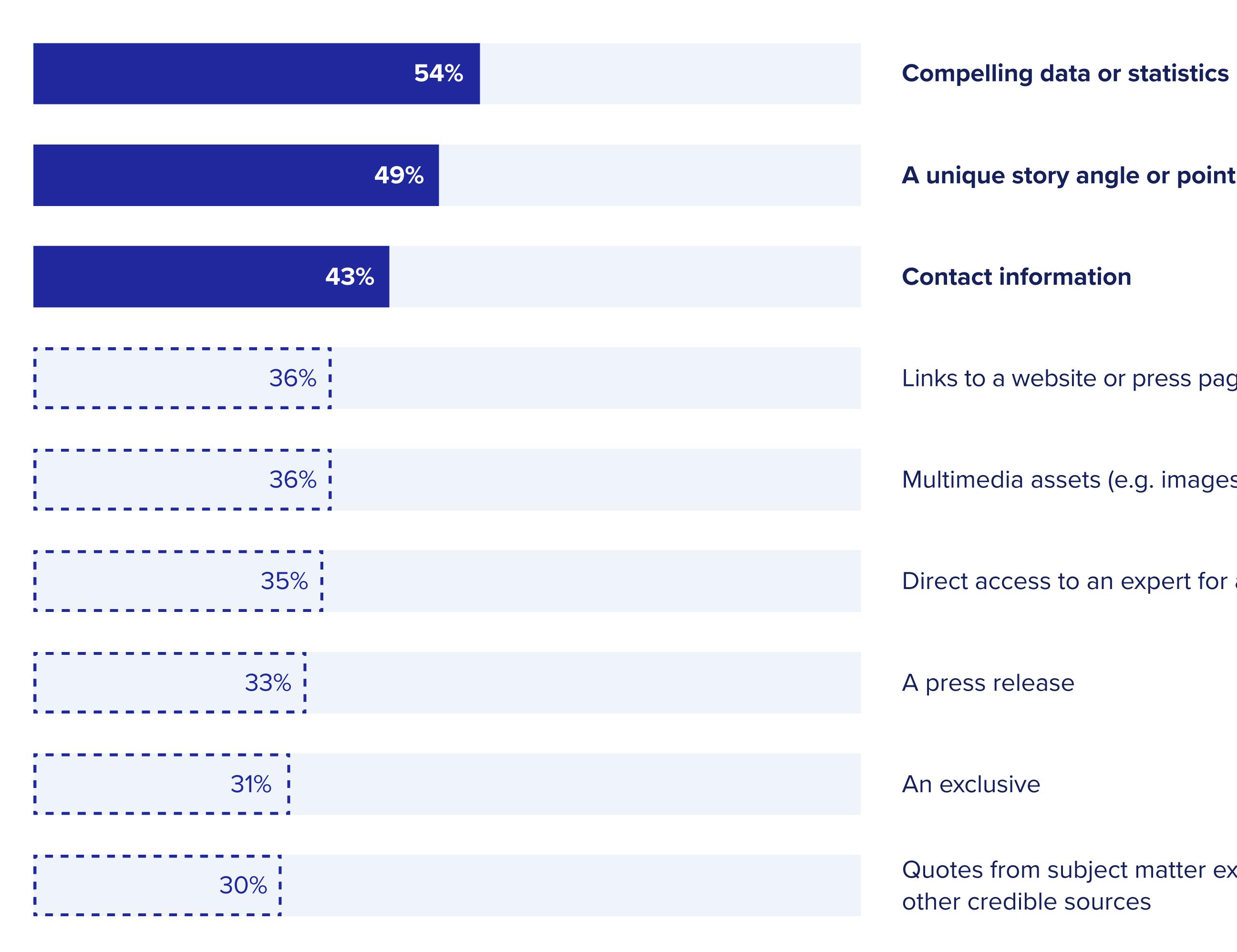
25

#### **The Ideal Pitch**

So how does a pitch go from a prospective story to headline news? We cut to the chase and asked journalists to tell us what a pitch needs to include in order for them to consider covering it.



#### Fill in the blank: In addition to being relevant to my audience, the ideal pitch should include \_\_\_\_\_ for me to consider covering it.



A unique story angle or point of view

Links to a website or press page where I can learn more

Multimedia assets (e.g. images, videos, etc.)

Direct access to an expert for an interview

Quotes from subject matter experts, executives or

### **Top Responses** by Region

Globally, compelling data or stats are critical – ranking number one for APAC, by a large margin – followed closely by a unique story angle or point of view. APAC journalists are also far more interested in multimedia assets than their counterparts in EMEA and North America, where contact information is high on the list of must-haves.

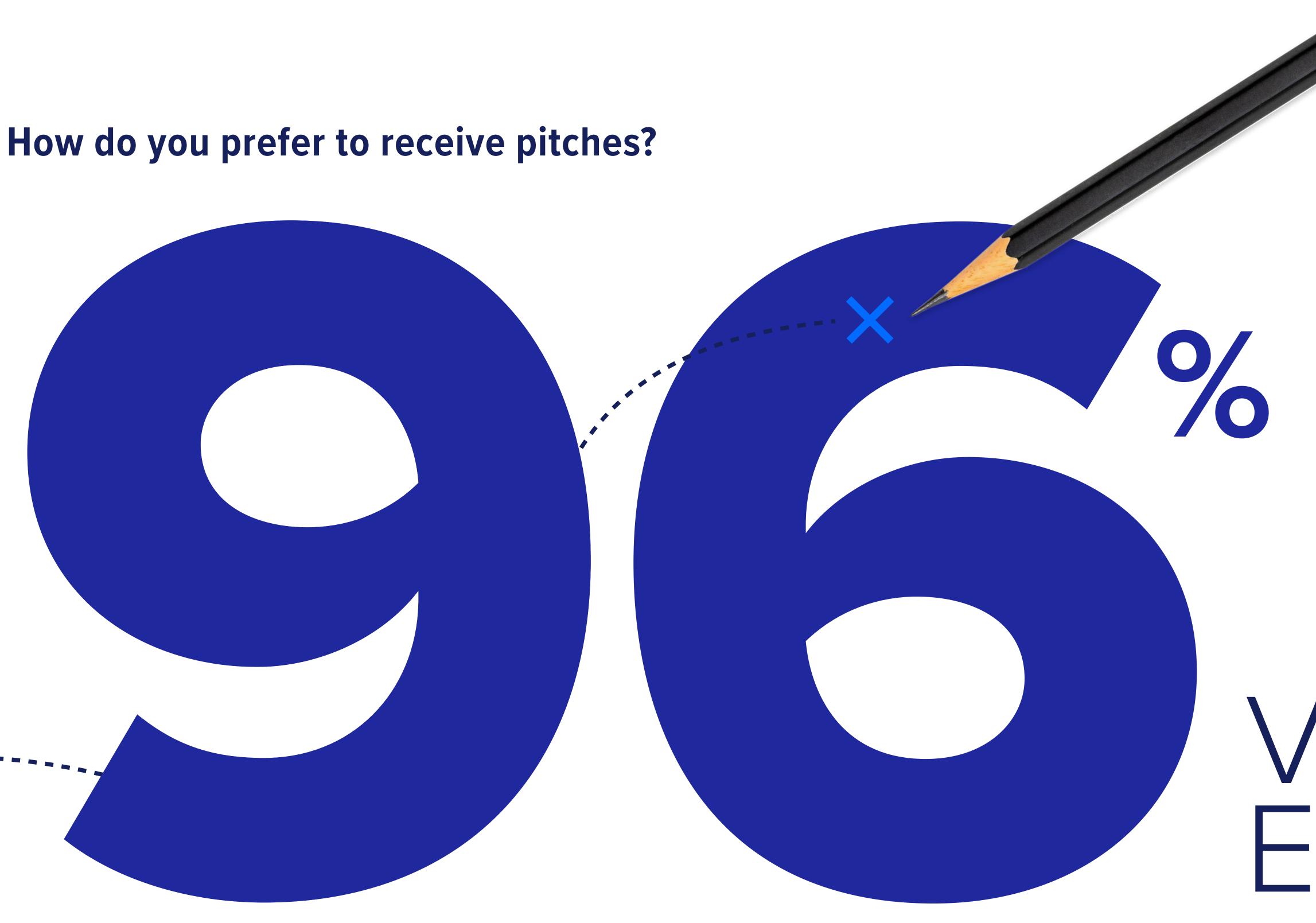
------

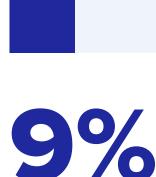
#### Fill in the blank: In addition to being relevant to my audience, the ideal pitch should include \_\_\_\_\_ for me to consider covering it.



#### Pitch Length and Follow-Up Etiquette

By far, email is the best avenue for pitching journalists across EMEA (98%), North America (99%), and APAC (79%). (WhatsApp messages and social media DMs were also popular options in the APAC region.)





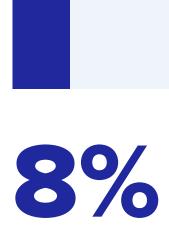
Via WhatsApp message



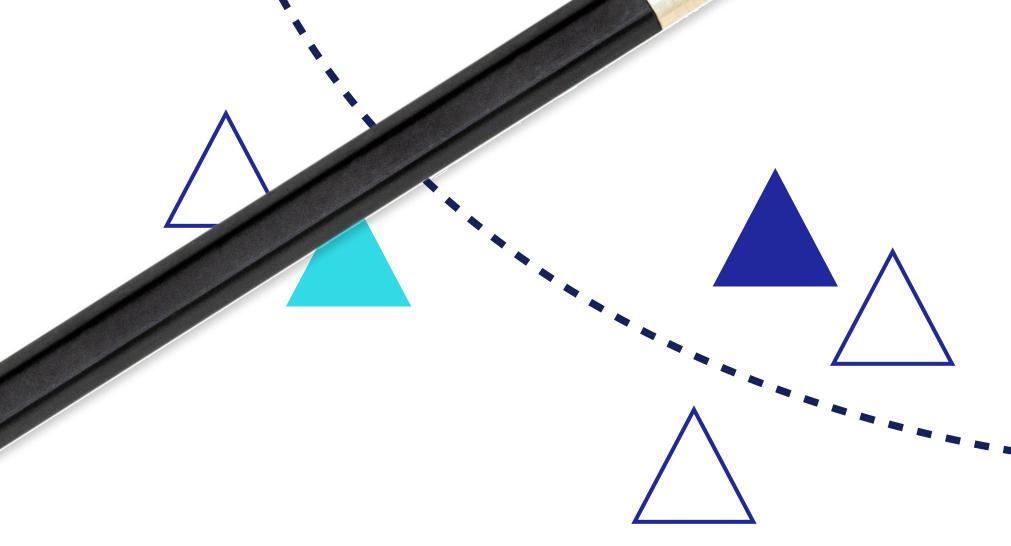
. . . 

Via phone call





11 . 4%



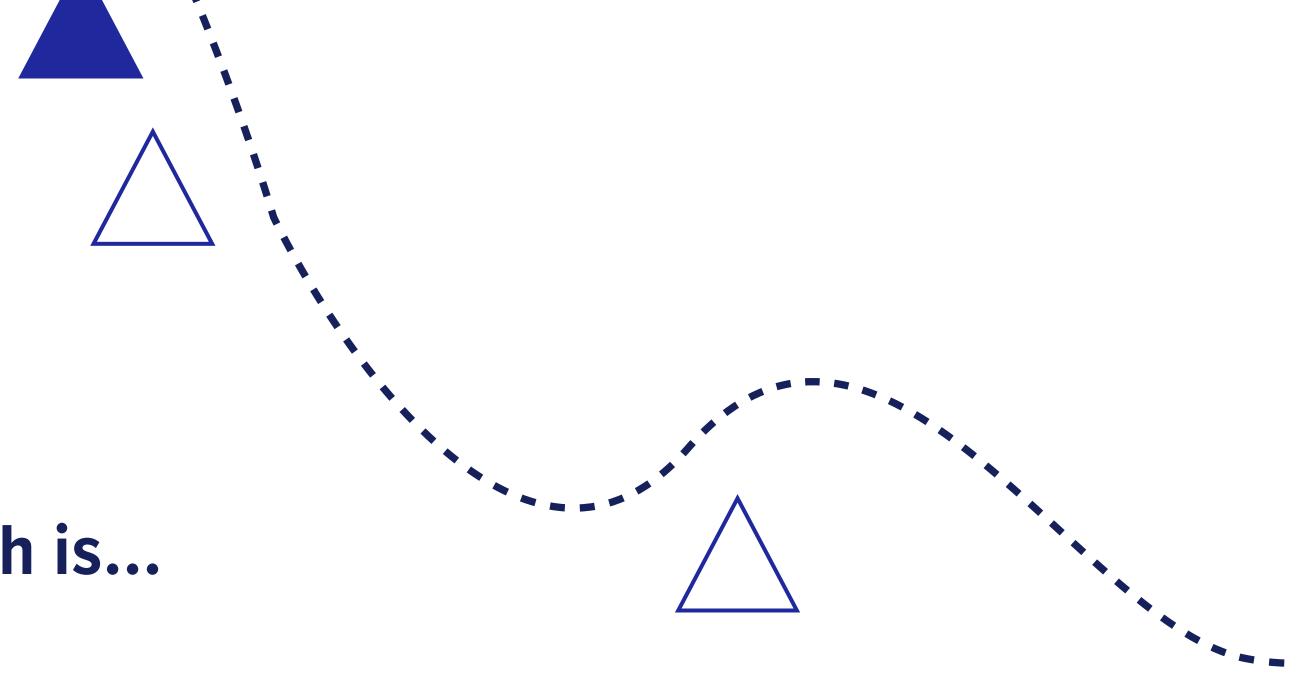
# VIД FMAI

Via social media/DM

Via text

### **Finding the Right Pitch Length**

With these channels in mind, we asked journalists what they feel is the ideal length of a written pitch. While a majority say that it varies by story, the sweet spot seems to be between 100 and 300 words.



#### The ideal length of a written pitch is...



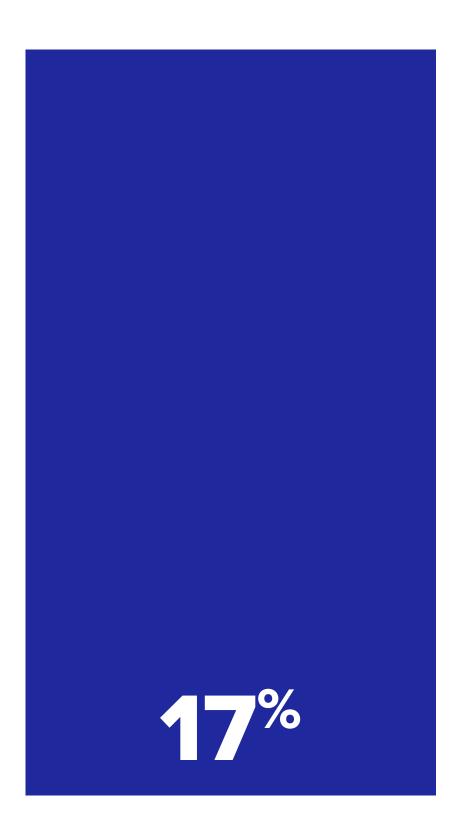
It depends on the complexity of the story

Less than 100 words

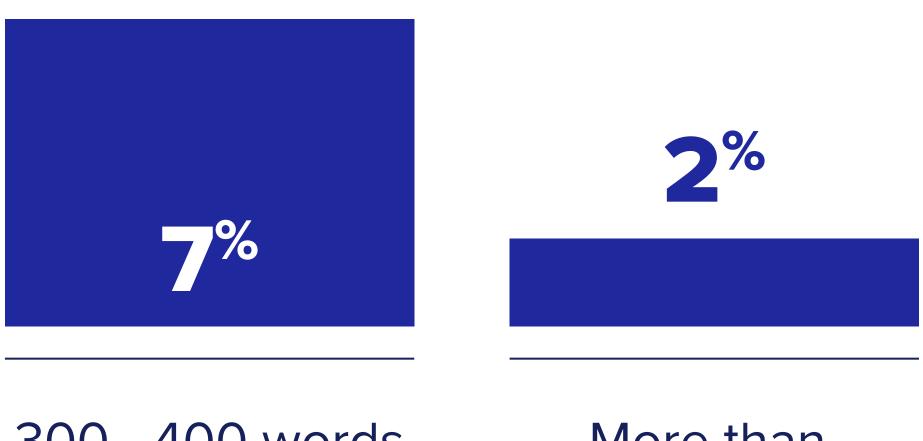
10%

100 - 200 words

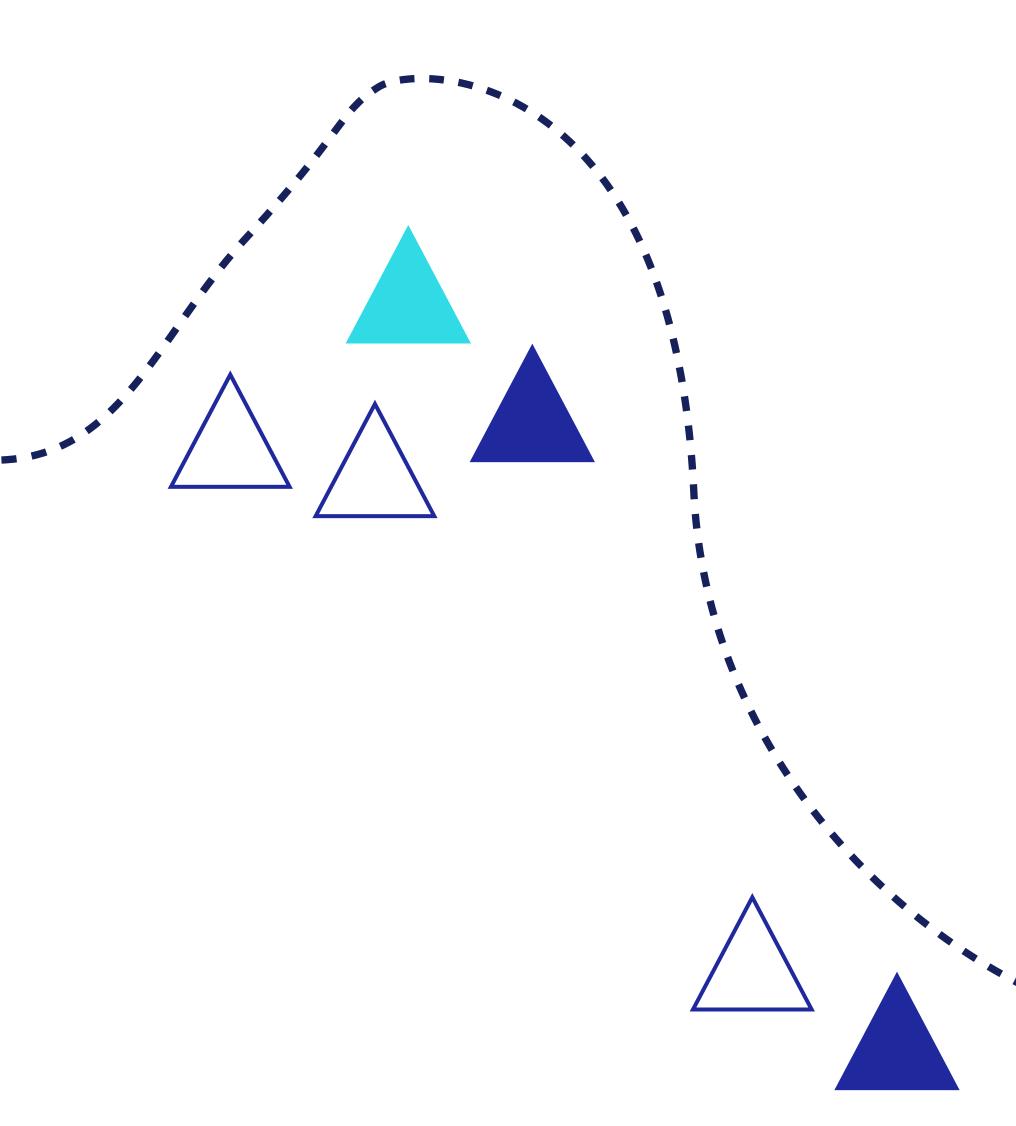








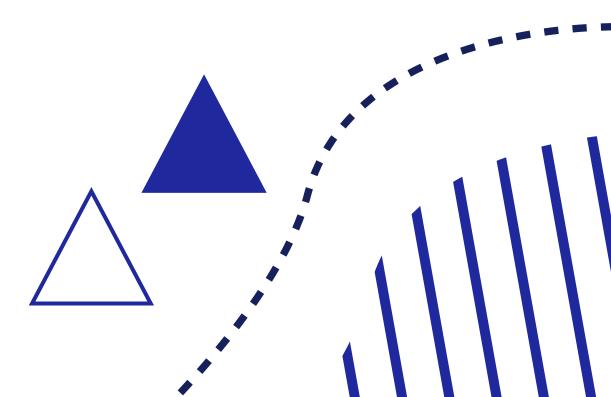
300 - 400 words



More than 400 words

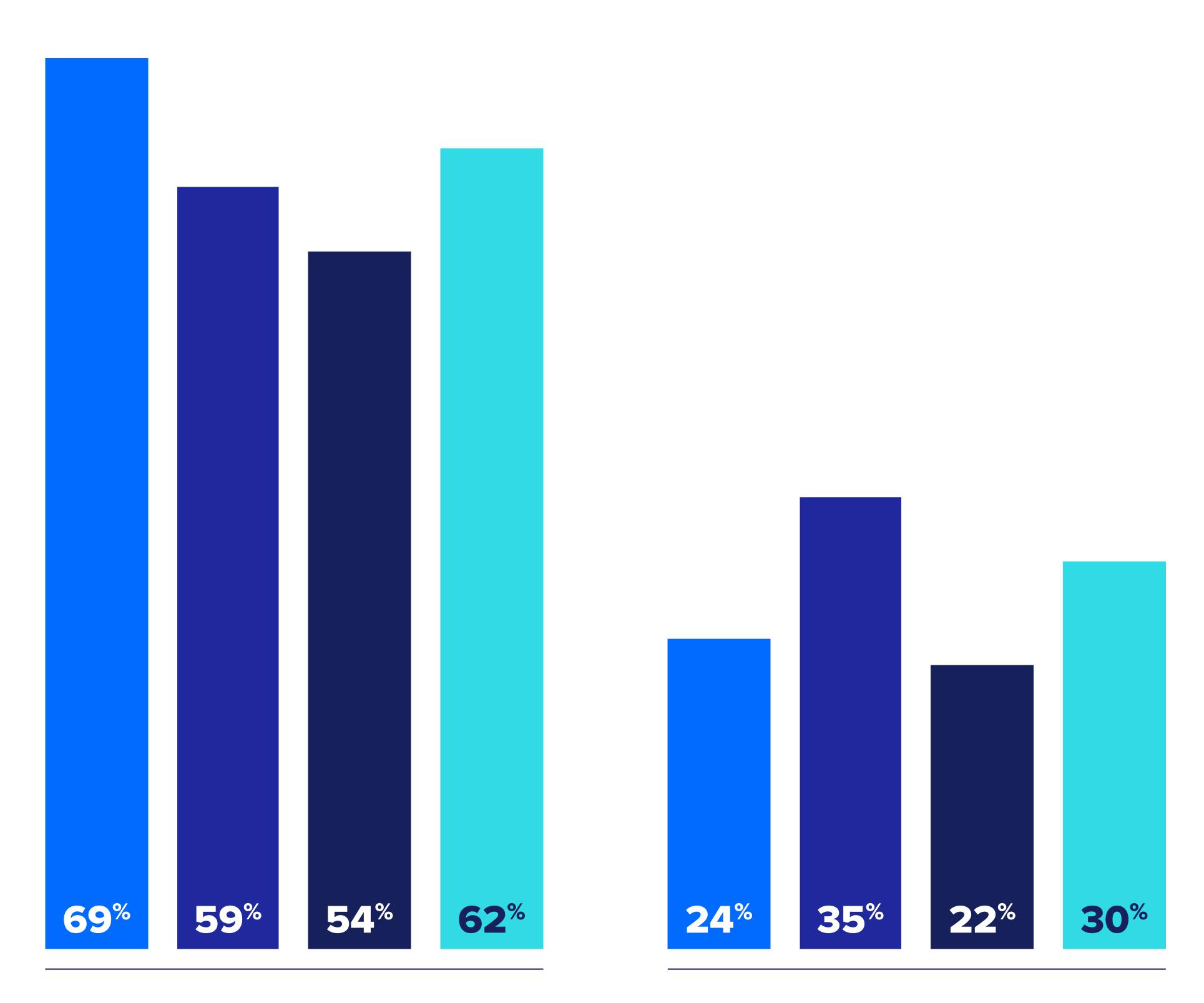
#### **One and Done**

Once your pitch is out the door, most journalists welcome one follow-up (and one follow-up only); however, nearly a third don't want any follow-up at all. Journalists in APAC are notably much more in favor of multiple follow-up emails than other regions.



#### How many times should a PR professional follow up with you after sending a pitch?

**APAC** Global N. America

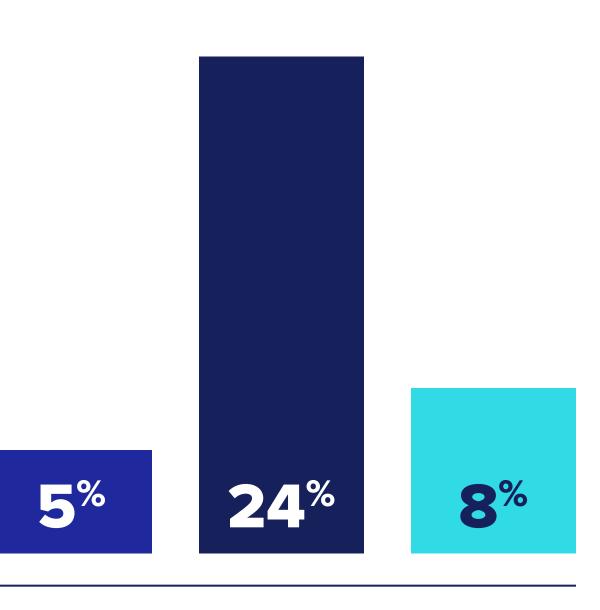


Once



Never





#### Multiple times

### Demystifying Multimedia

Multimedia is a pitching must-have for a significant number of journalists. In fact, our survey found 20% of journalists are more likely to pursue a pitch that includes multimedia, and another 36% say it depends on the type of multimedia. So we dug deeper to understand the multimedia that grabs their attention the most.





2025 | Cision.com

## Which multimedia or data elements – that were provided by PR professionals or agencies – have you included in your content over the past year?

	70%	Images
30%		Data visualization/i
25%		Videos
25%		Web polls/surveys
16%		Social media posts
10%		Brand logos
6%		Audio
6%		Livestreams
4%		Interactives (e.g. das
3%		Animation
2%		Quizzes

/infographics

lashboards, games, etc.)

### **Top Responses** by Region

There's global consensus on the number one spot: Images outrank all other assets for journalists in every region. After that, there are some notable differences across regions, and from last year. Videos (once in the number two spot on this list) fall behind web polls and surveys in North America, and data visualizations in APAC and EMEA.

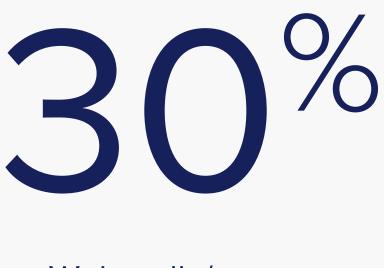
#### Which multimedia or data elements – that were provided by PR professionals or agencies – have you included in your content over the past year?











#### Putting It All Together: **Pitching Best Practices**

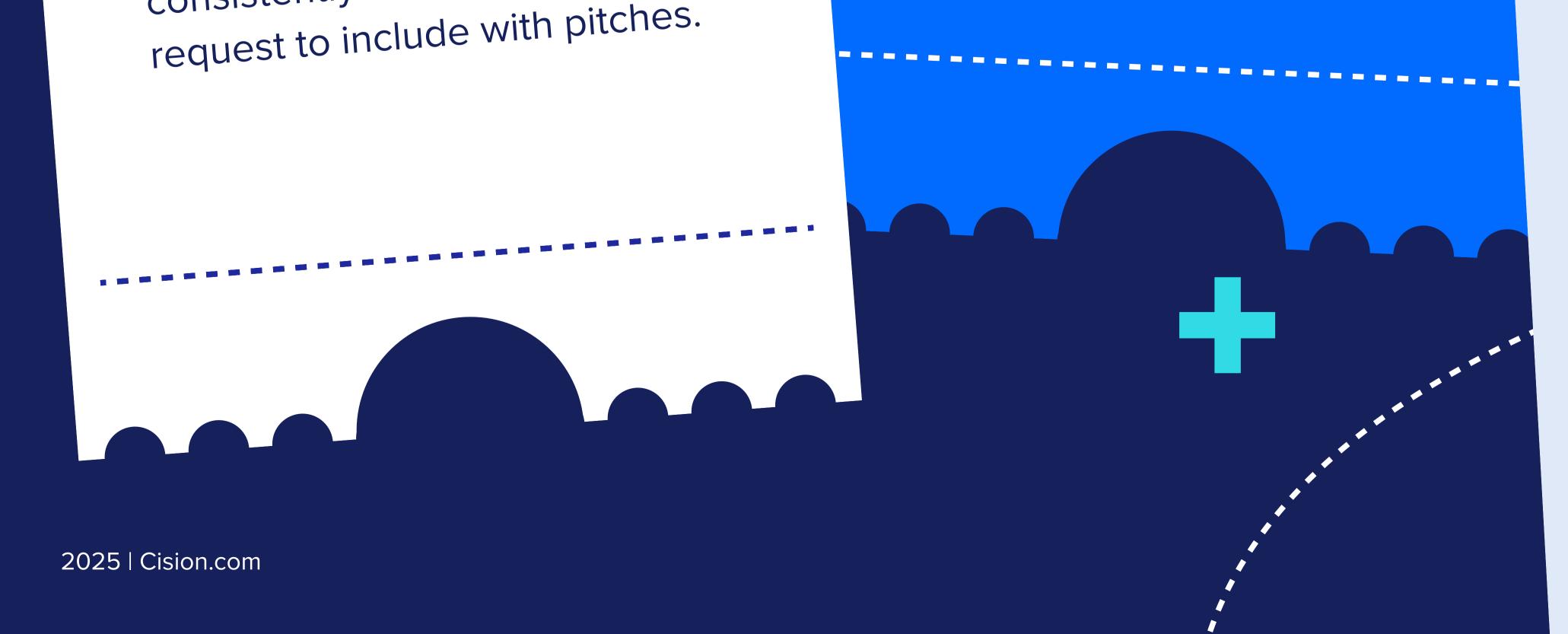
#### When in doubt, lead with data.

While there are notable differences in what catches the eyes of journalists across Europe, North America, and Asia-Pacific countries, data is consistently the number one request to include with pitches.

..........

#### **Consider location.**

Not only do you need to consider what journalists in different regions prefer when pitching, one of the top reasons journalists told us they reject pitches is that they do not make sense for the area they cover.



#### Journalists can spot a mass mailing a mile (or kilometer) away.

And when they do, they're quick to reject it (consider the number of journalists who say they'll write off a PR professional completely who gets their name wrong). The more personalized the pitch, the higher the chances your story gets covered.

### A picture is worth a thousand words.

Including relevant multimedia with your pitch can increase the chances a journalist will pursue it, and images are the multimedia assets they prize the most.



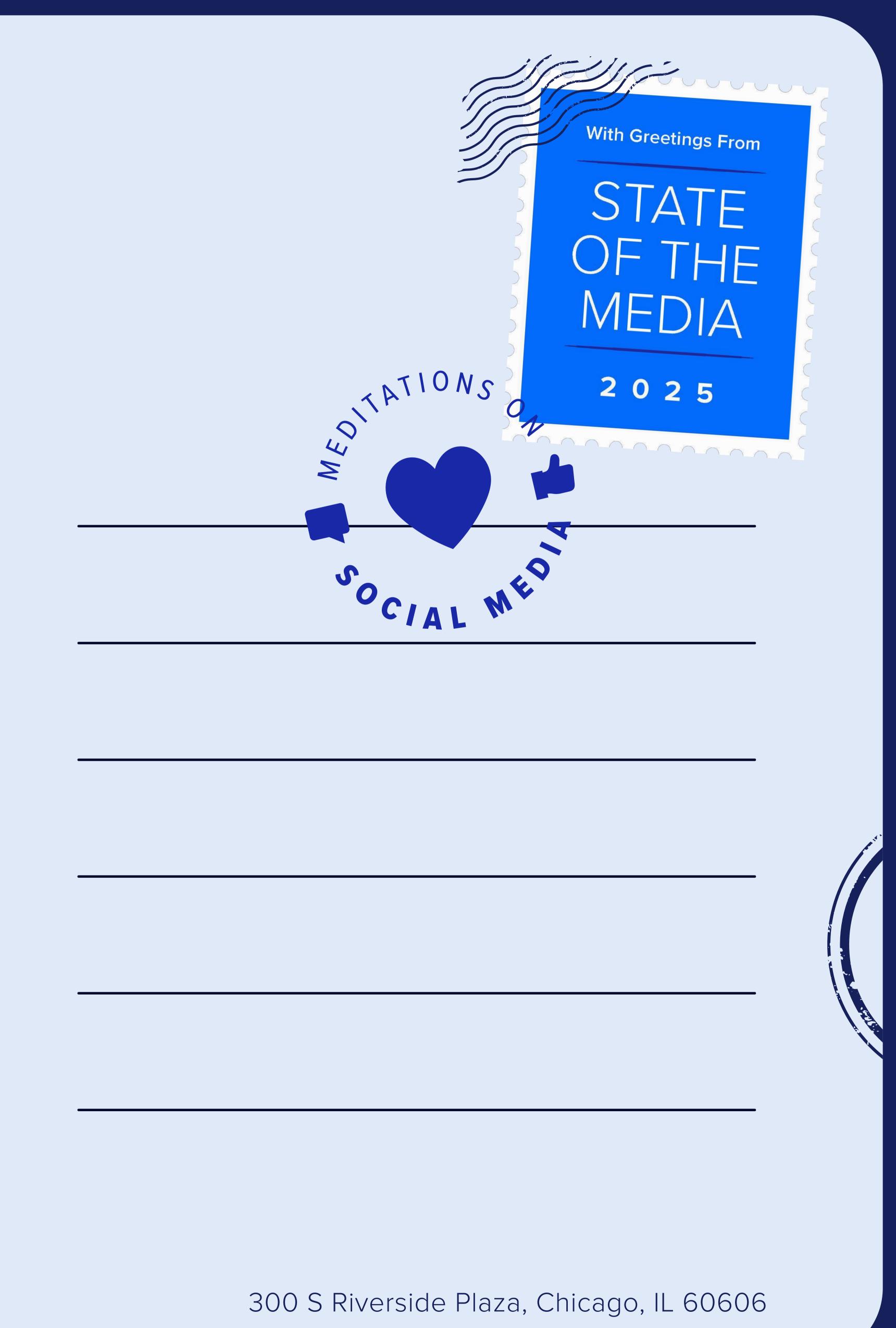
It's the No. 1 reason journalists reject pitches, so do your background research to make sure the story is relevant for their audience, timely, and has a compelling angle.

# ALS

When it comes to understanding journalists and their audiences, there is no greater resource than social media. So we set out to uncover how journalists are using it, and shine some light on the ever-changing EDITATIO Z S rules of engagement on social media.

0



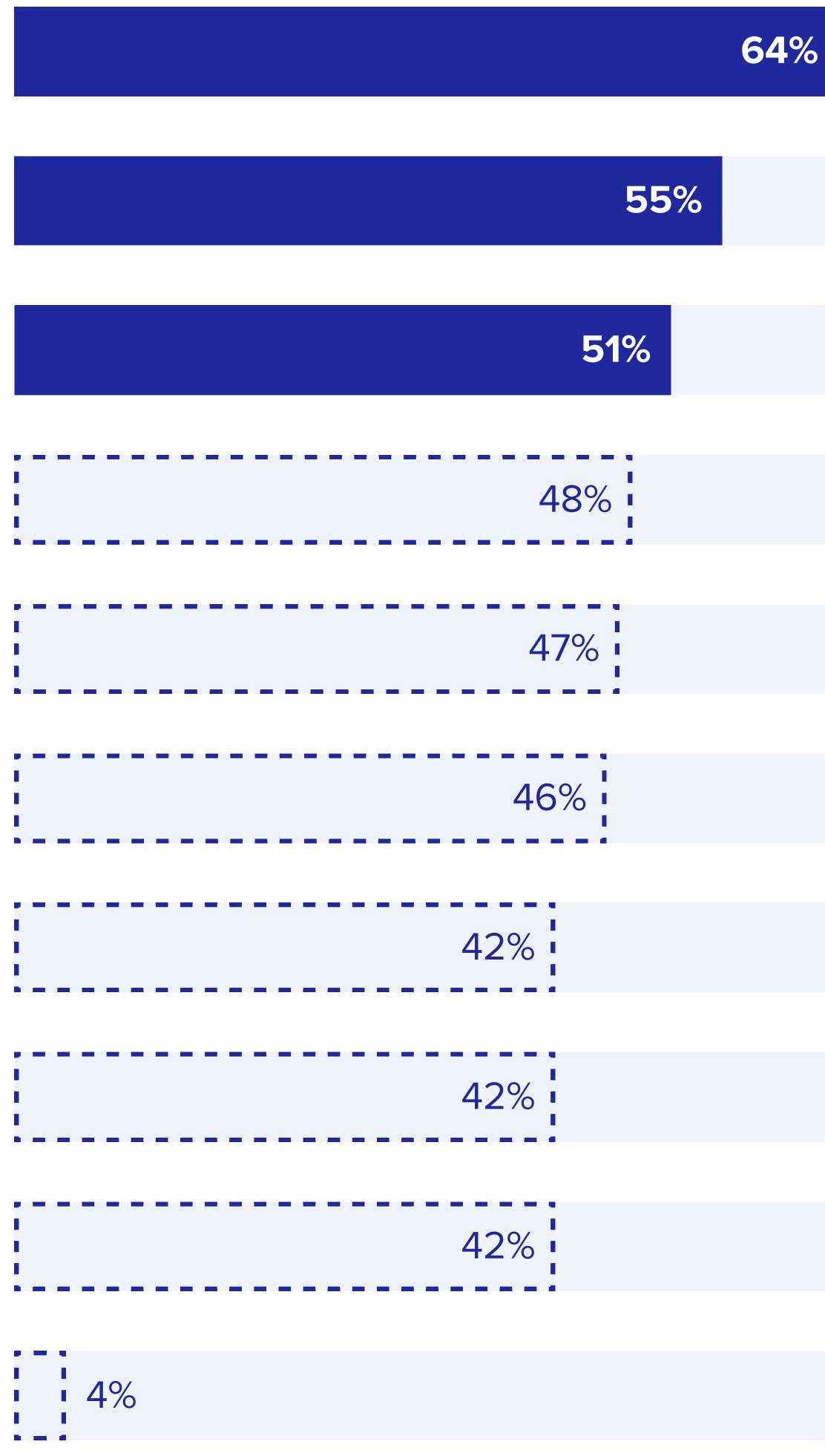


### Likes, Links & Leads: Journalists on Social

Ninety-six percent of journalists are using social media for a variety of work or career-related functions – from promoting their content and interacting with audiences, to getting information and ideas for stories.



#### In the last year, have you used social media for any of the following work-related reasons?



To publish/promote
To interact with my
To crowdsource info
To network
To pick up on trendir
To stay on top of bre
To check or verify inf
To connect with sour
To monitor (news, ke
N/A - I don't use soci

#### e content

audience

#### formation for stories

#### ling topics

reaking news

#### nformation

urces for stories

keywords, competitive media, etc.)

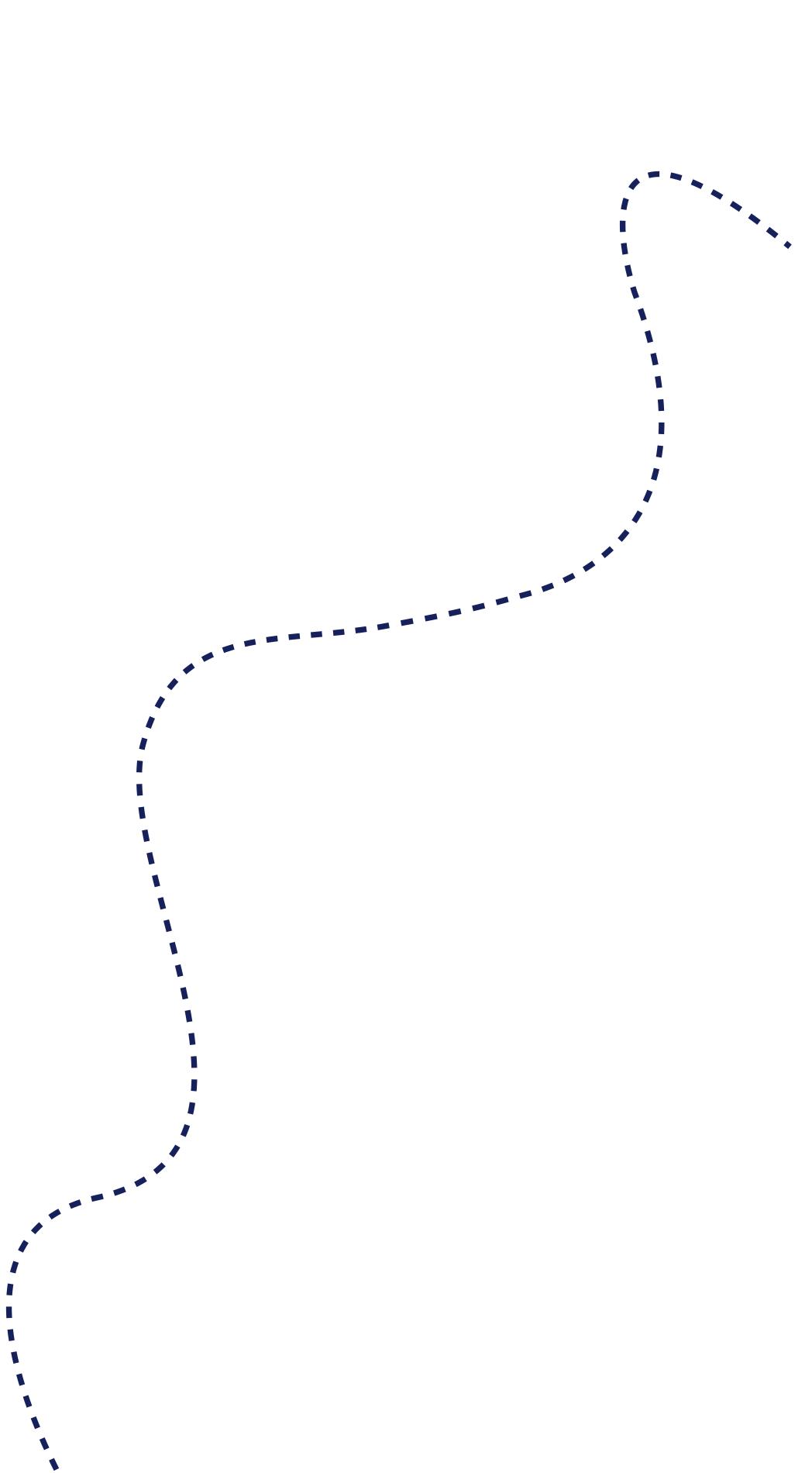
cial media for work-related purposes

### Top Responses by Region

Journalists in APAC are more likely to be crowdsourcing information and less likely to be interacting with their audiences than their counterparts in North America and EMEA. North American journalists are more likely to turn to social media when breaking news hits.

#### In the last year, have you used social media for any of the following work-related reasons?





# Social Media Preferences

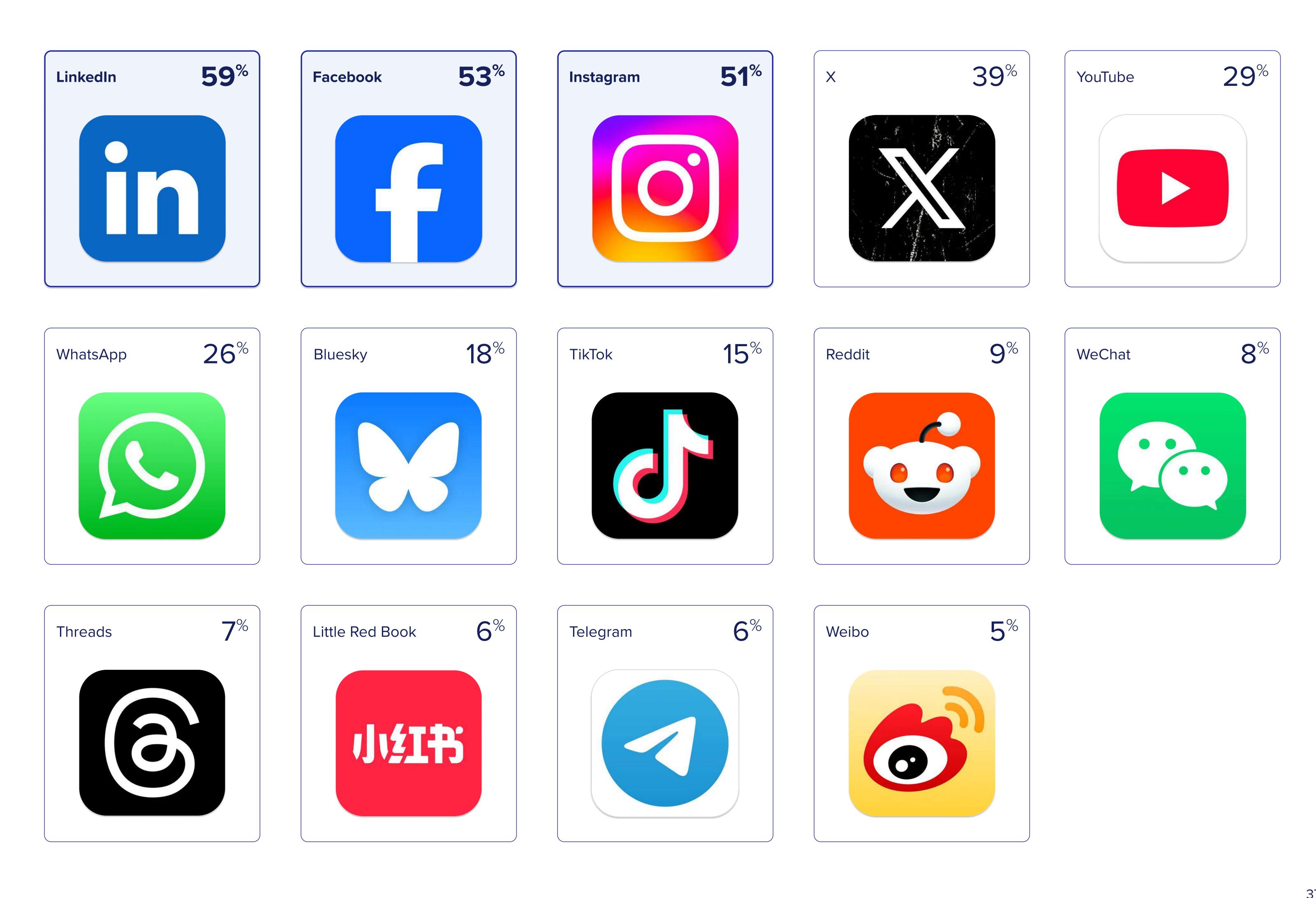
As for where journalists are spending most of their time and energy, LinkedIn is the No. 1 choice globally, followed by Facebook and Instagram. One notable platform to watch is Bluesky, which launched in early 2023, but is quickly becoming a new favorite among journalists, outranking even TikTok this year.

Head to the next page to see how social preferences differ by region.

2025 | Cision.com

1111

#### Which of the following social media platforms do you use most frequently for professional purposes?



# Top Responses by Region

You'll find most journalists across the world on LinkedIn (the No. 1 choice for EMEA and North America), Instagram, and Facebook (the No. 1 pick for most of APAC); however, WhatsApp has significantly higher followings in EMEA and APAC, and X is still where nearly 1 in 2 North American journalists flock. The exception to these findings is China, where the most popular platforms are barely a blip on the radar elsewhere: WeChat, Little Red Book, and Weibo.

#### Which of the following social media platforms do you use most frequently for professional purposes?

North America	EMEA	APAC (w/o China)
inkedIn 63%	<b>inkedIn</b> 66%	Facebook 63%
Facebook 59%	linstagram 55%	linstagram 58%
linstagram 53%	Facebook 53%	<b>LinkedIn</b> 52%
X   47%	X 41%	WhatsApp49%
YouTube 30%	WhatsApp38%	YouTube
BlueSky   27%	YouTube 31%	X 35%



#### Next Steps: **Turning Social Media** to Earned Media

. . . . . .

## Use social media to show your value.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

It's no coincidence that some of the main reasons journalists are using social media – to look for story ideas, to find sources — also happen to be some of the ways PR professionals provide value. Follow journalists you want to connect with and be ready to offer up relevant resources when the opportunities arise.

#### **Explore untapped** resources.

In addition to the "big four" social platforms, look at smaller and emerging platforms to source stories journalists might not be seeing. For instance, only 9% of journalists use Reddit, yet it's a window into audience perspectives that can lead to potential stories.

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

#### Leverage social media to research journalists.

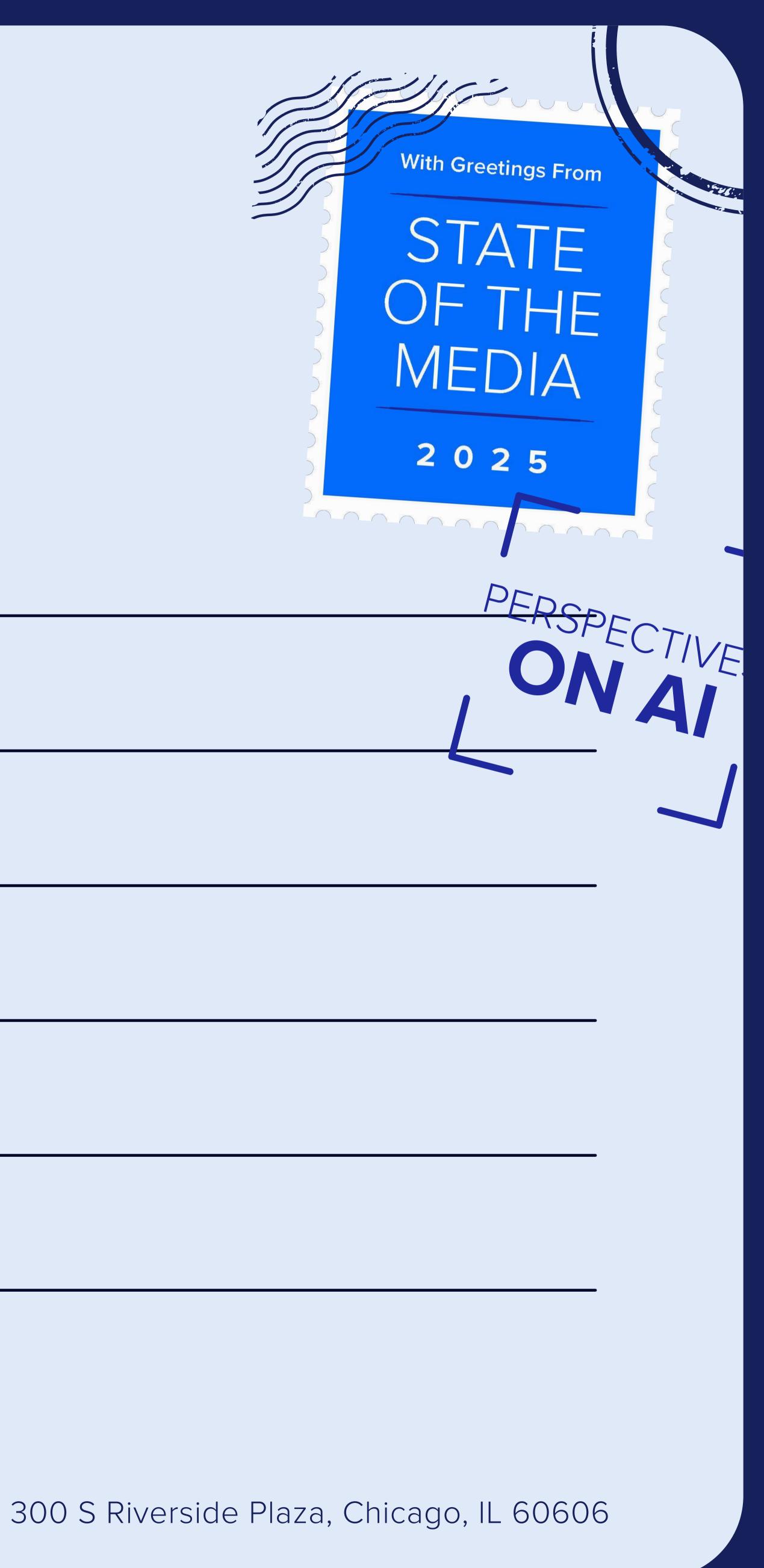
Journalists are far more likely to pursue a pitch that is personalized for them, and social media can offer insight into the types of stories a specific journalist might cover. It can also be where journalists go to get sources for stories.

# PER JOURNALISIS GERRAI AR() AR IE INTELLIGENCE

Of course, no discussion of the media is complete without talking about AI and the impact it continues to have on the industry. Knowing that AI has presented issues (more journalists this year identify it as a top industry challenge) as well as opportunities for the industry (more journalists report using it), we wanted to understand how journalists are leaning into the technology, and how they feel about PR professionals doing the same.



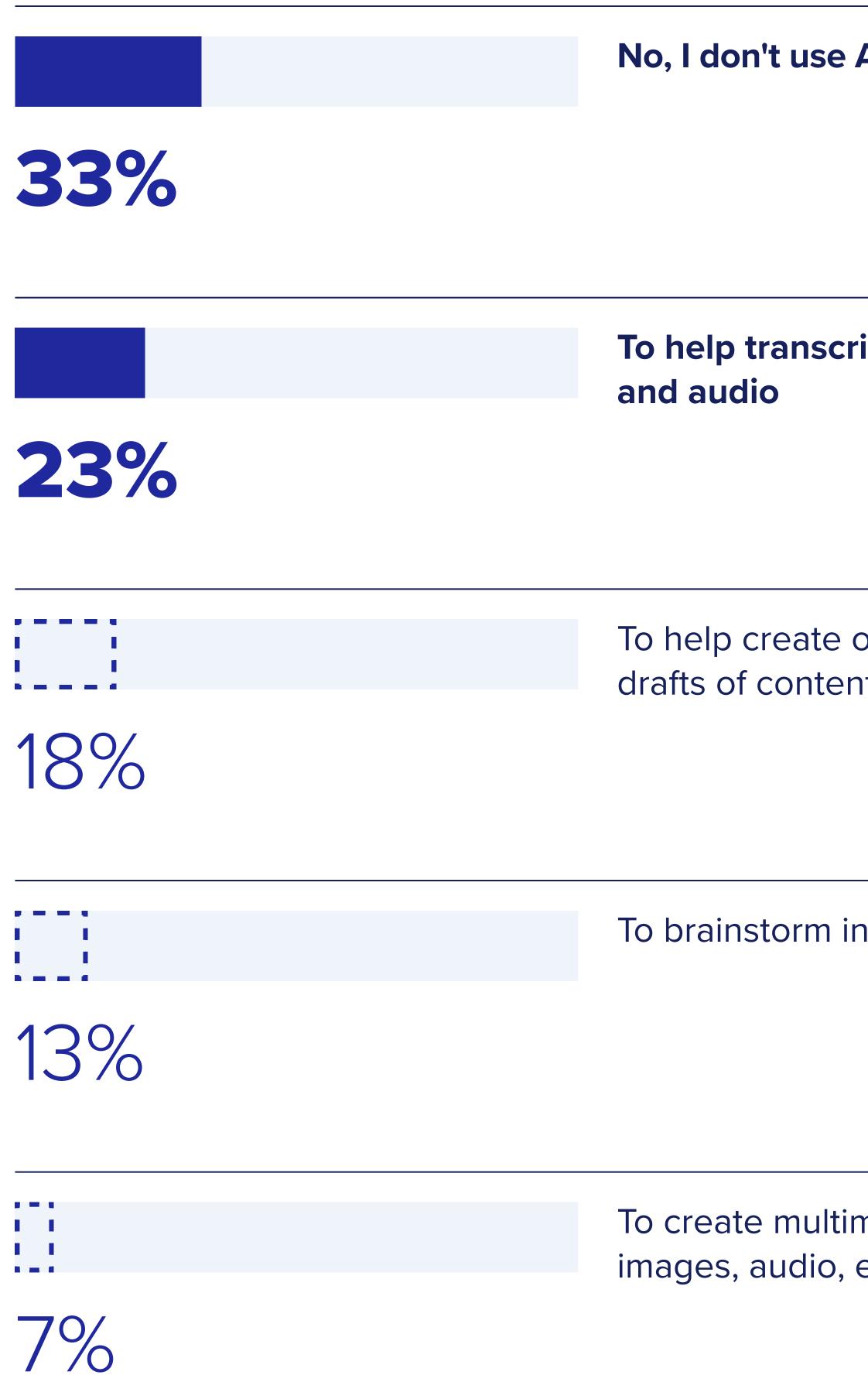
ECTIVES	



## **How Journalists Use Al**

In a notable uptick from last year (when 47% of journalists worldwide said they were using AI in some capacity), 53% of journalists are now using generative AI tools like ChatGPT to support their work efforts, and another 14% plan to start.

#### Are you using generative AI tools like ChatGPT to support your efforts? If so, in what capacity?



Al and don't plan to	25%
ribe interviews	
	20%
outlines or early nt	14%
nterview questions	10%
media (video, etc.)	4%

To research certain topics

To help summarize text

No, I don't use AI but plan to start

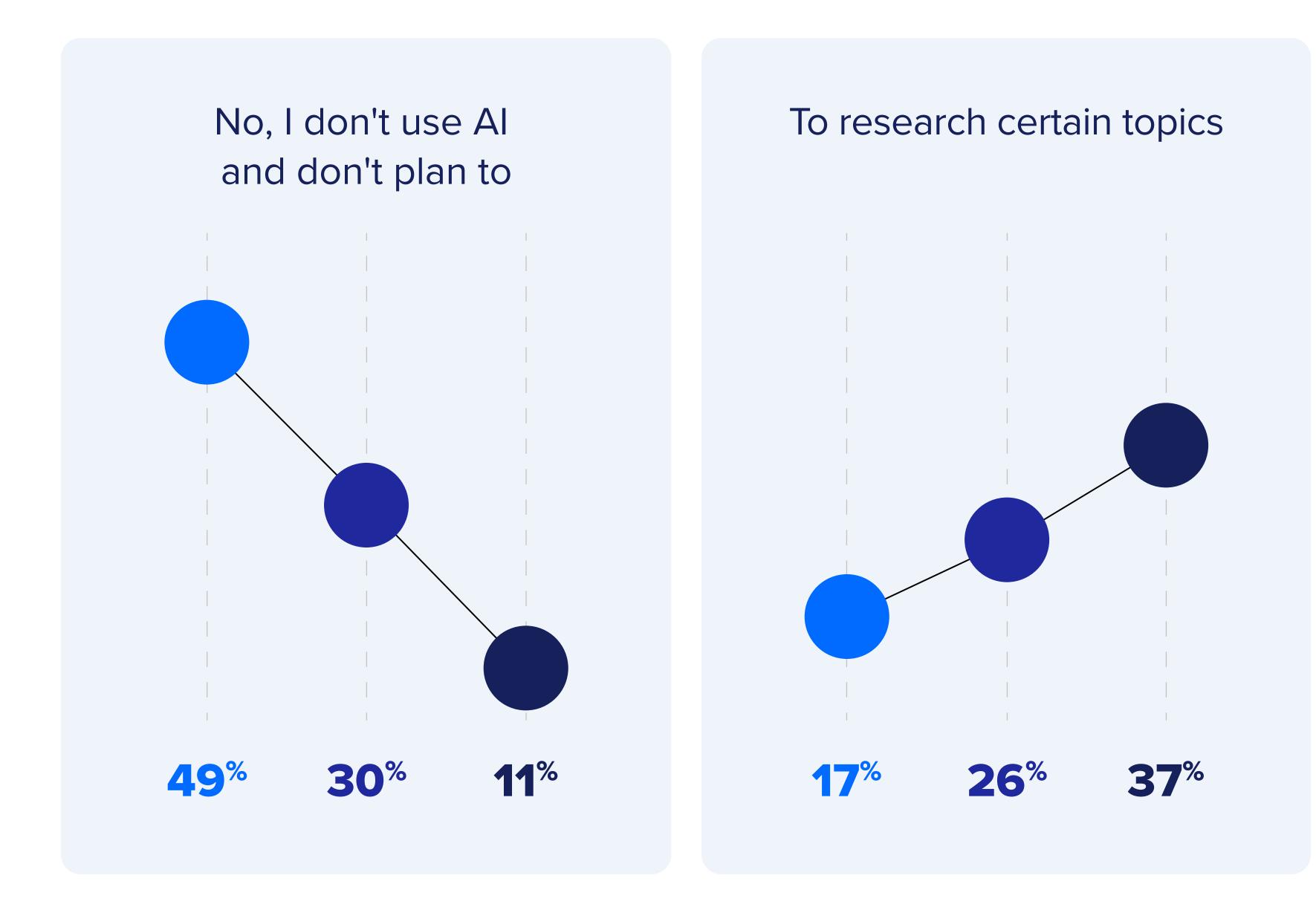
To brainstorm new story ideas

To learn more about my audiences

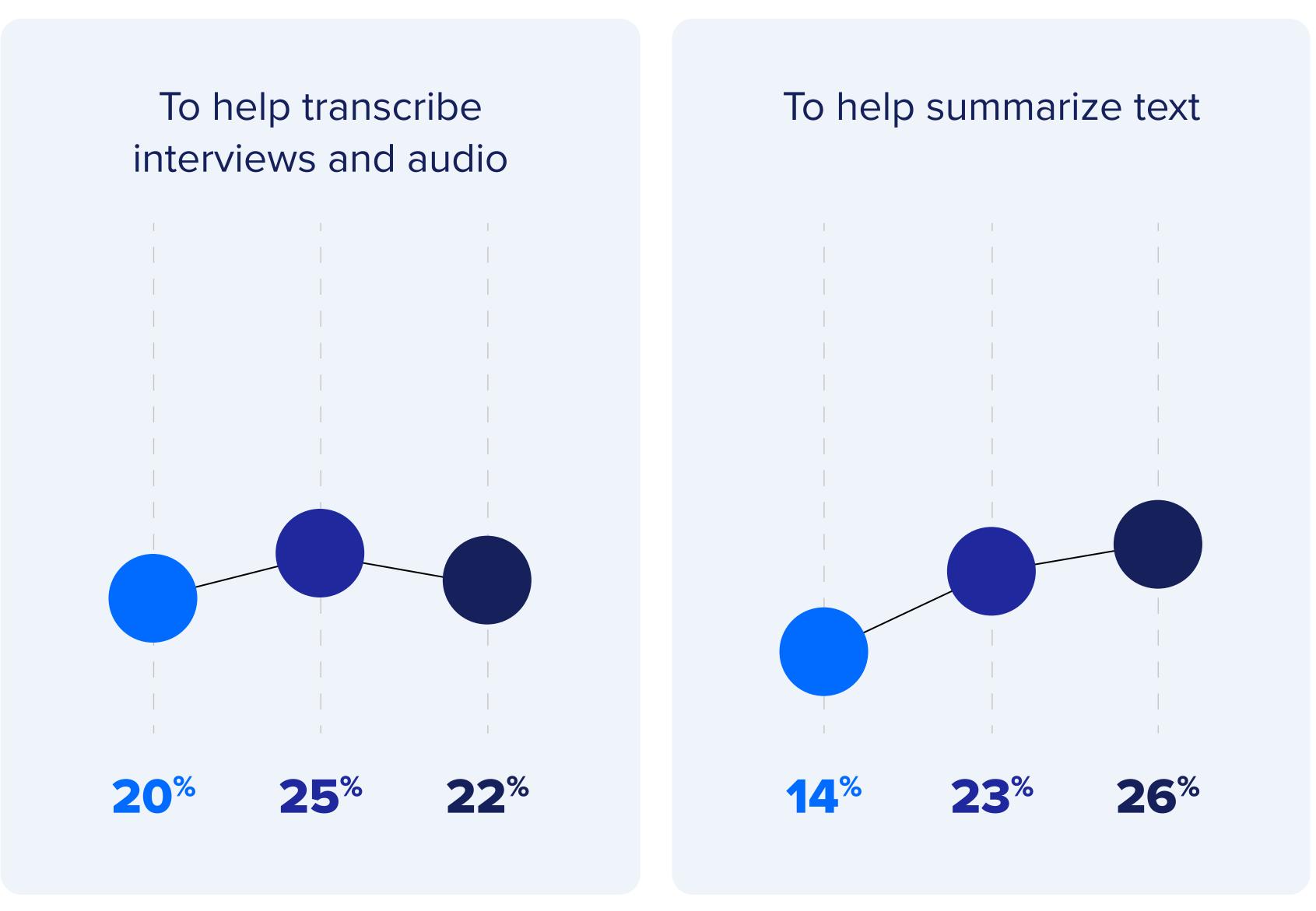
## Top Responses by Region

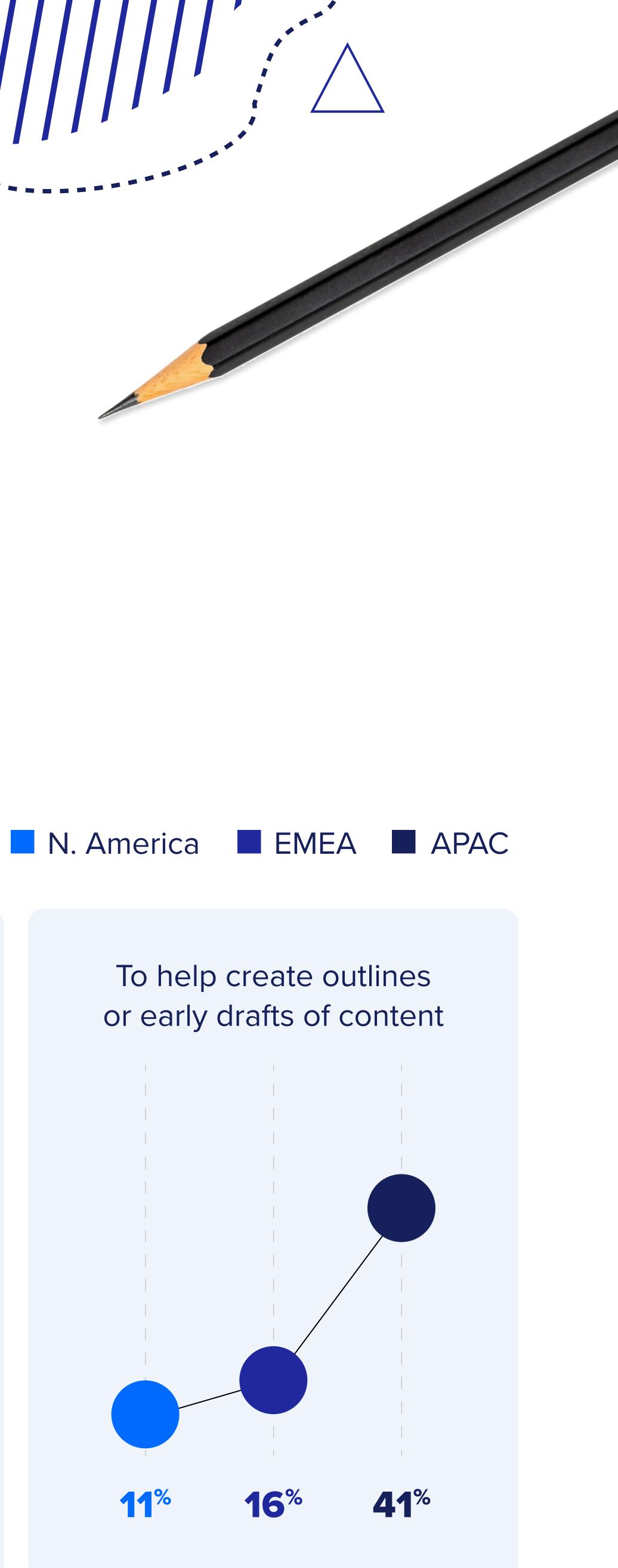
North American journalists are most resistant to AI, with nearly 1 in 2 (49%) saying they don't use it and don't plan to, compared to only 30% in EMEA and a mere 11% in APAC. Research, transcription and

#### Are you using generative AI tools like ChatGPT to support your efforts? If so, in what capacity?



summarization are the three most common ways in which journalists in EMEA and North America use AI; in APAC, generative AI is being used first to conduct outlines or early content drafts.





## How Journalists **Feel About Al in PR**

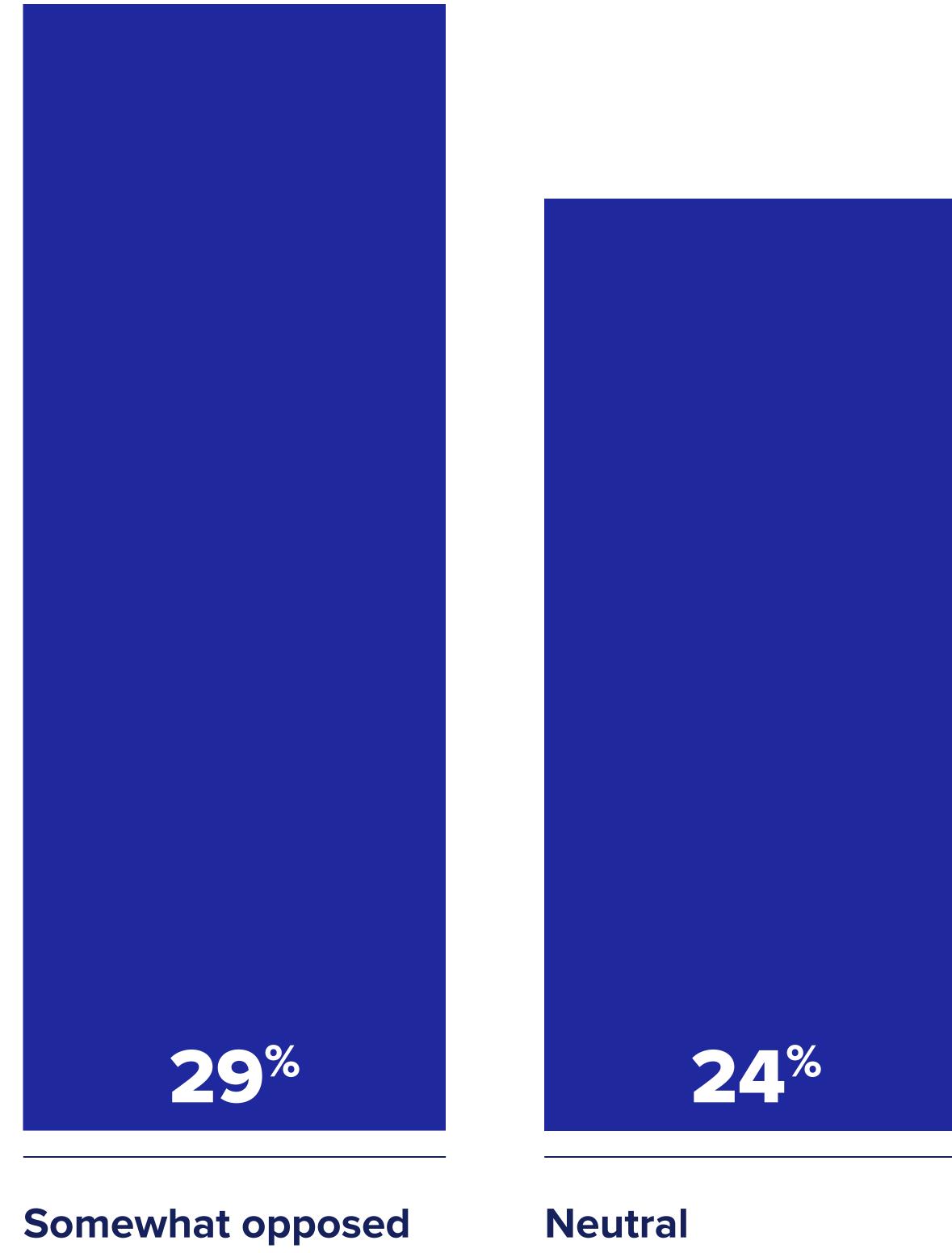
With more PR and comms professionals leveraging AI to help produce press releases and pitches, we wanted to understand how journalists felt about being on the receiving end of this content.

Perhaps surprisingly, the majority of journalists are open to the idea, with only 27% indicating they are "strongly opposed." One quarter of journalists have no strong feelings either way. Most journalists indicated that while they don't prefer it, they would consider well-crafted Al-generated content.

#### How do you feel about PR professionals using AI to generate pitches or press releases?



Strongly opposed I would not consider Al-generated content



I prefer human-written content but would consider well-crafted Al-assisted pitches

I have no strong feelings either way



**Somewhat in favor** Al can be useful if properly edited and validated by humans

2%

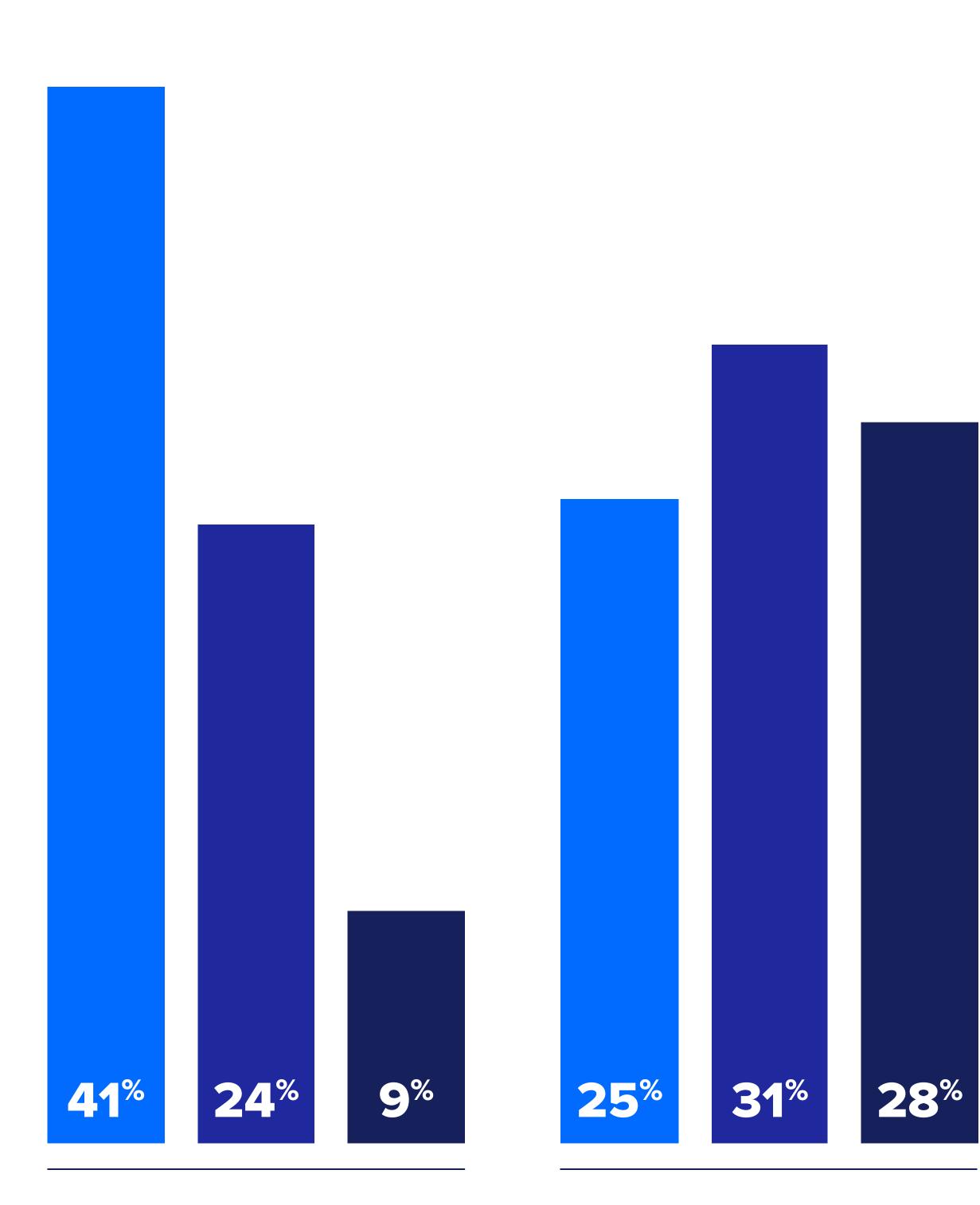
**Strongly in favor** I welcome well-crafted Al-generated content

# **Top Responses** by Region

Journalists in North America show the most opposition (not surprising, given that they are also the group most strongly opposed to using it themselves), with 2 in 5 indicating they're strongly opposed; on the other end of the scale, journalists in APAC – the group with the highest usage rate themselves – are most in favor of PR professionals using AI.

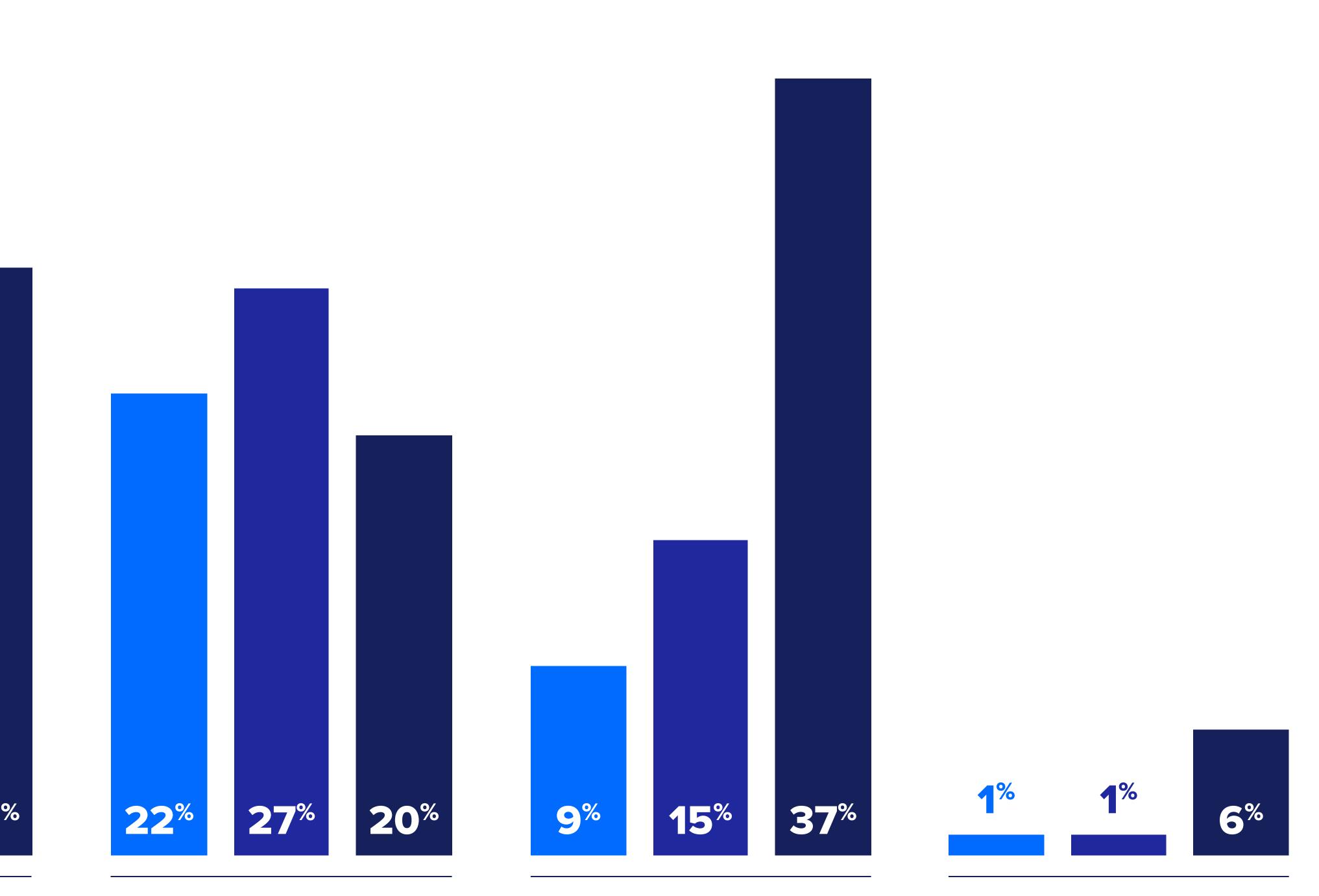
#### How do you feel about PR professionals using AI to generate pitches or press releases?

#### APAC N. America



Strongly opposed I would not consider Al-generated content

Somewhat opposed I prefer human-written content but would consider well-crafted Al-assisted pitches



Neutral I have no strong feelings either way

**Somewhat in favor** Al can be useful if properly edited and validated by humans

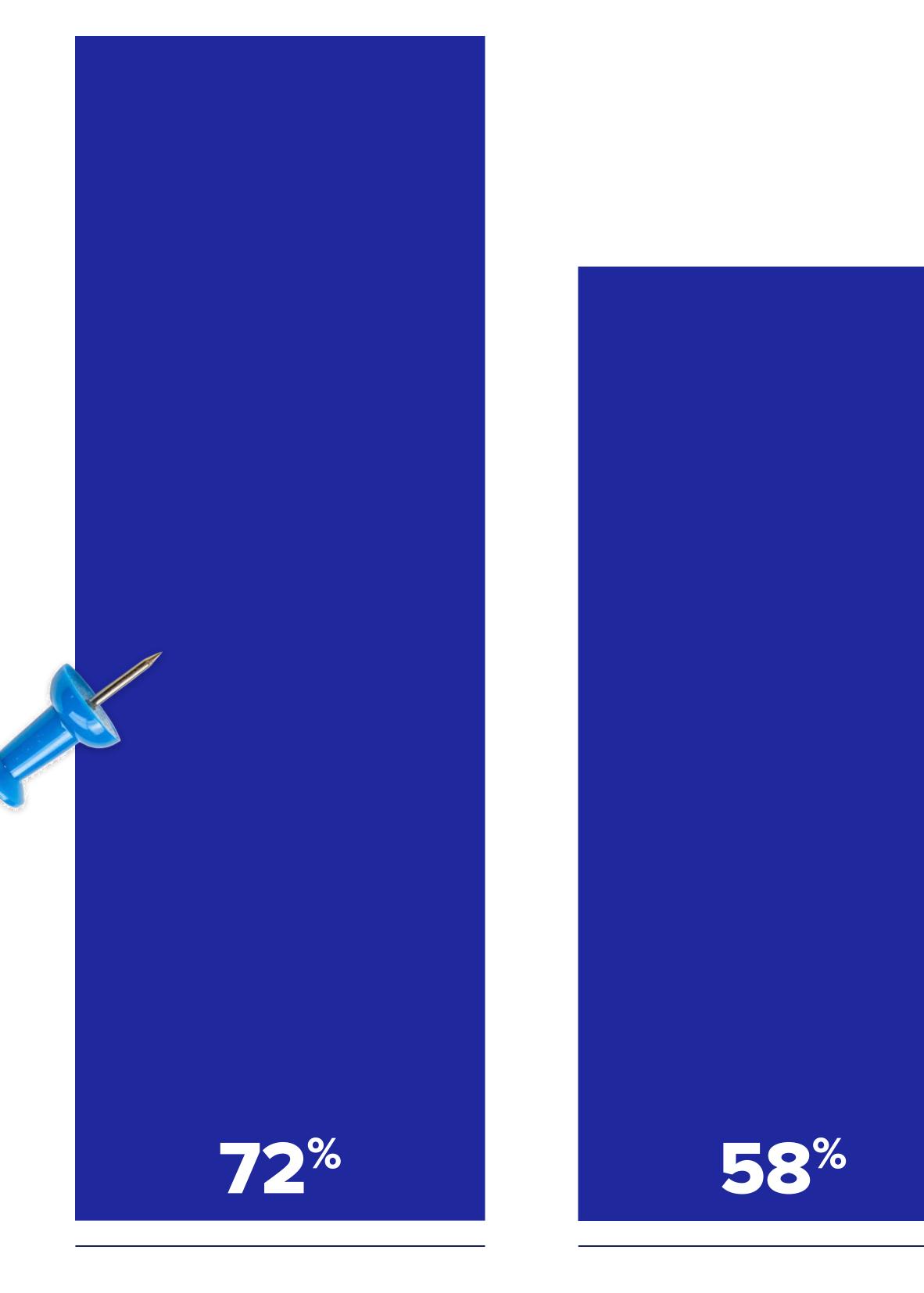
**Strongly in favor** I welcome well-crafted Al-generated content

#### Concerns Over Al

When it comes to their specific concerns about PR professionals using Al, factual errors top the list across all regions (which makes sense, given that battling misinformation is among journalists' top concerns).

Other serious concerns: Quantity of content will increase, but not necessarily quality, followed by loss of authenticity or creativity.

#### What are some concerns you have with PR professionals using AI to generate press releases or pitches?



I worry about potential factual errors in Al content I worry the quantity will increase, but not the quality



I worry the content will lack authenticity or creativity I worry about copyright infringements and accusations of plagiarism

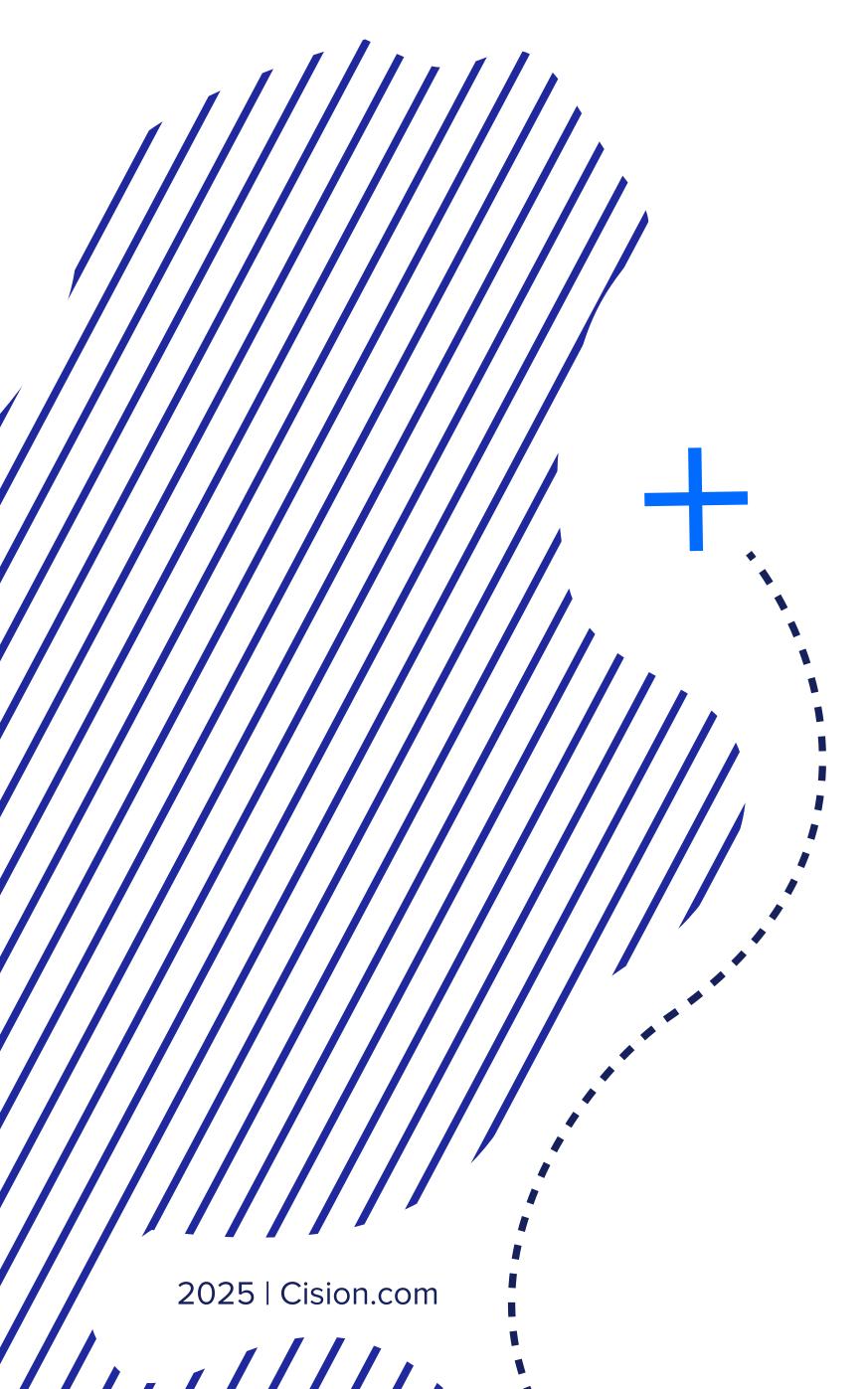
**48**%



I worry about potential bias present in Algenerated content

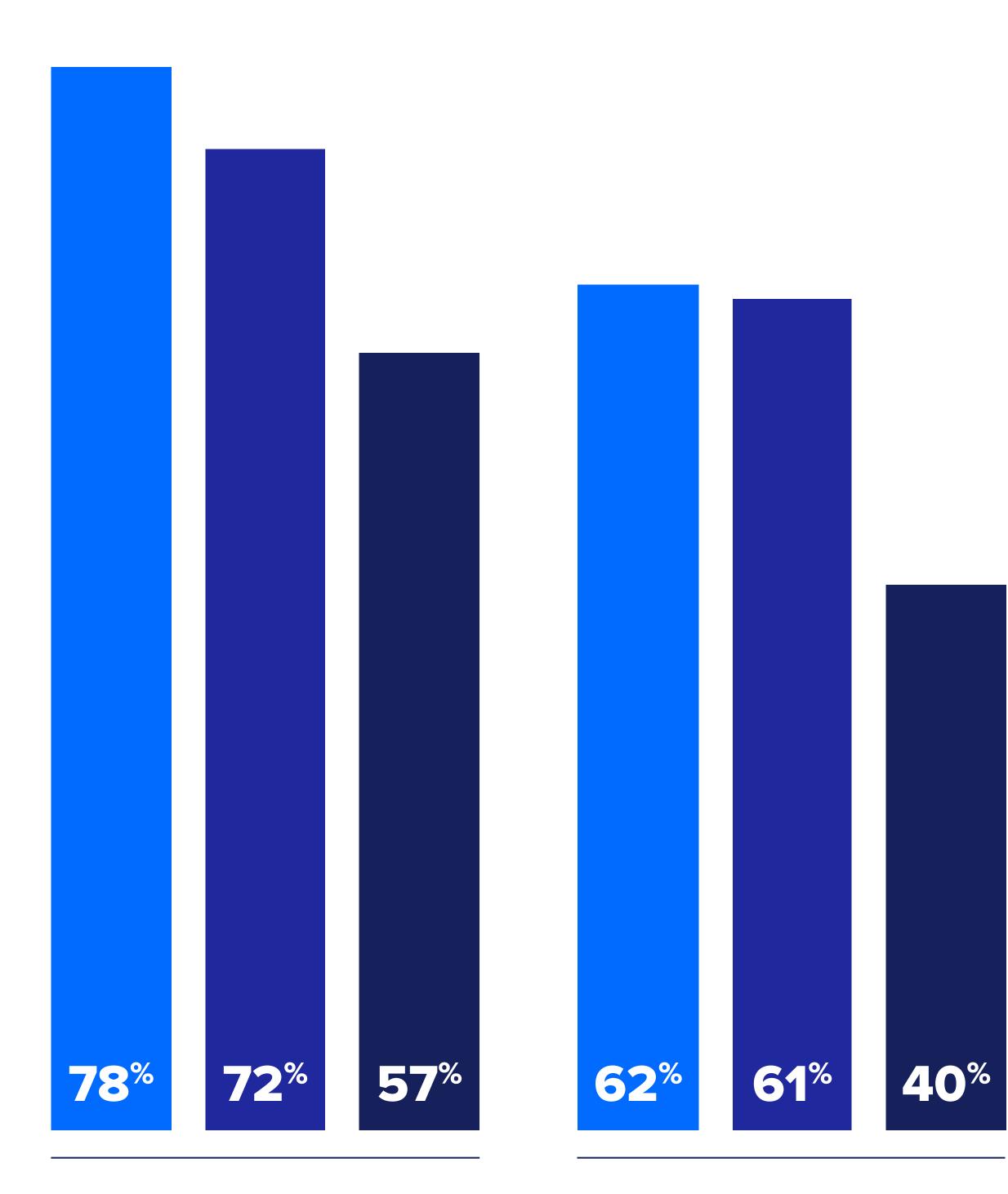
# **Top Responses** by Region

Overall, North American journalists indicate significantly higher concerns over Al usage – particularly when it comes to copyright infringements and potential bias – than their colleagues in other parts of the world.



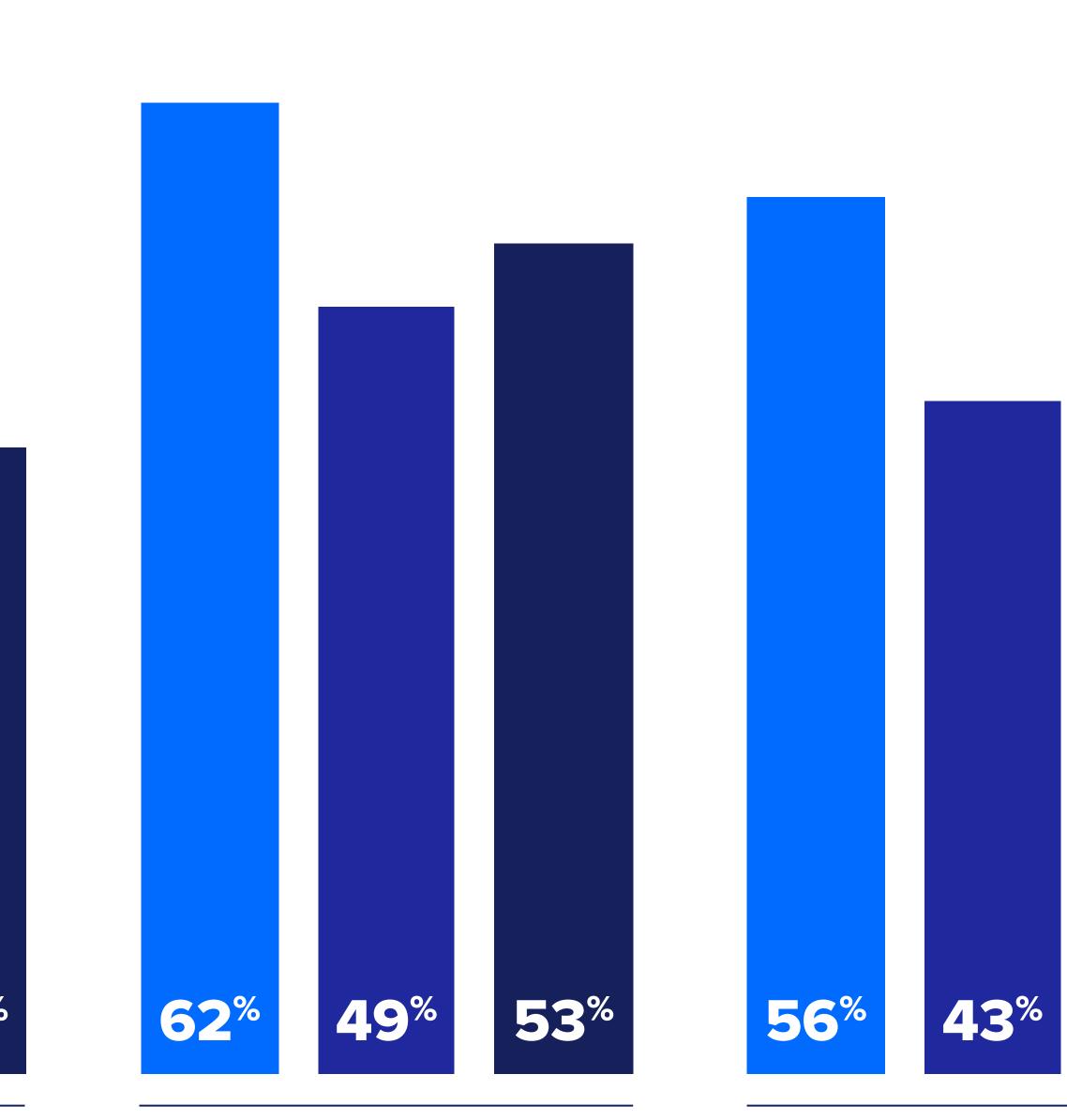
#### What are some concerns you have with PR professionals using AI to generate press releases or pitches?

N. America APAC 



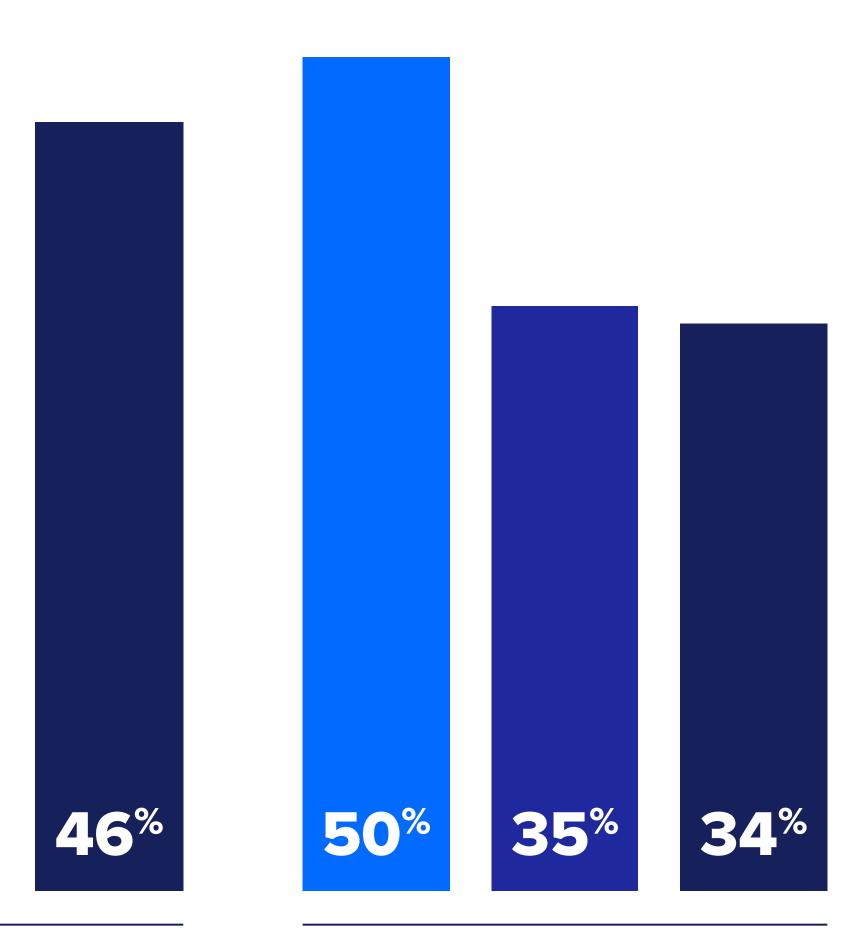
I worry about potential factual errors in Al content

I worry the quantity will increase, but not the quality



I worry the content will lack authenticity or creativity

I worry about copyright infringements and accusations of plagiarism



I worry about potential bias present in Algenerated content

# In Their Own Words

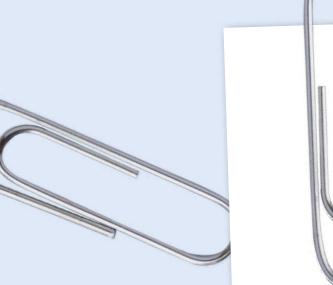
We asked journalists to elaborate on the reasons they use (or don't use) Al. These answers represent a common theme of finding AI both useful and challenging.



"I've tried to use AI but it has been a waste of time. Bad research results. Wrong information. Just not worth it yet."



"I use it to help summarize some research, but have found it to be mindbogglingly inaccurate on multiple occasions, requiring further research, making it counterproductive."



too much."

"We sometimes use AI to supplement copy edits, but we always have a human reviewer, too."

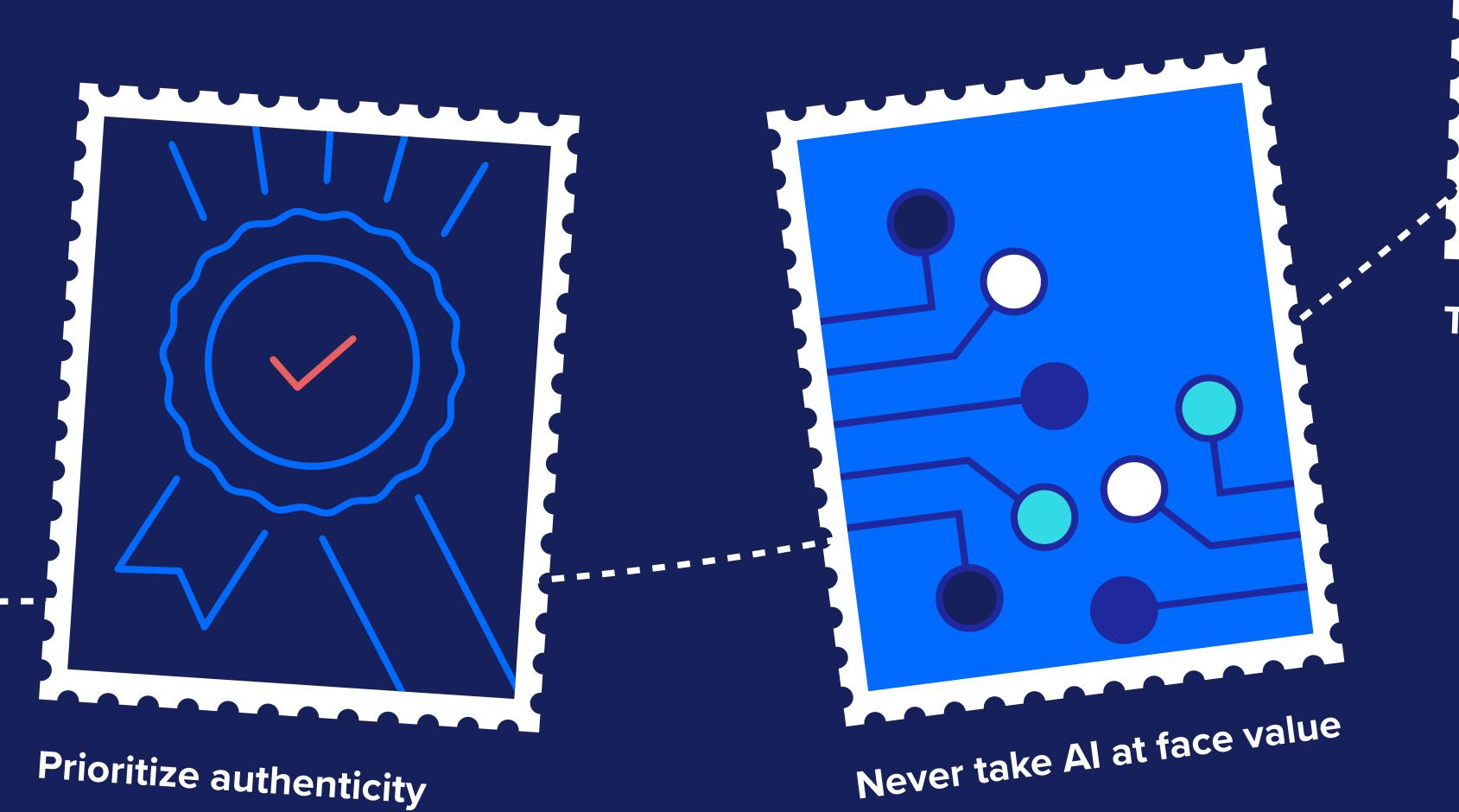


# NEXT STEPS: TAKEAWAYS EOR PR

Prioritize authenticity: Journalists are most amenable to AI when they believe that, in addition to being factually correct, it also still contains a compelling story. Be sure to refine your Algenerated content so that your brand's unique voice and point of view shine through.

Never take AI at face value: Given journalists' (valid) concerns over Al-generated content, PR professionals would be wise to be up front about any use of AI and able to ensure that the content is verified and credible.

Take inspiration from journalists: Journalists are experimenting with AI in myriad ways and PR pros can benefit from a similar approach: Don't be afraid to test AI to see where it can create efficiencies and spur creative thinking, but make sure anything it generates has been validated by human experts.







#### Take inspiration from journalists

48

2025 | Cision.com

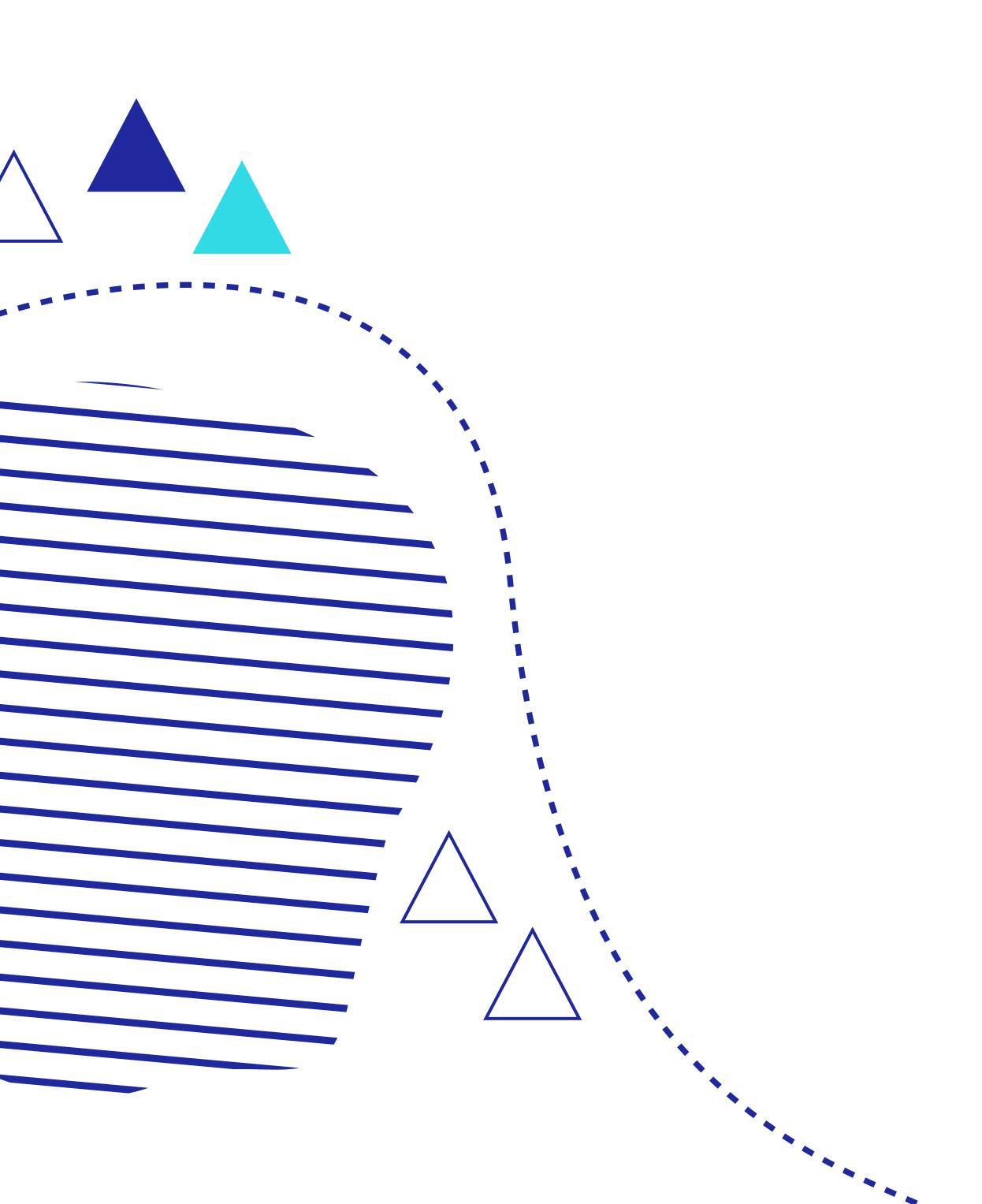
#### **Final Thoughts**

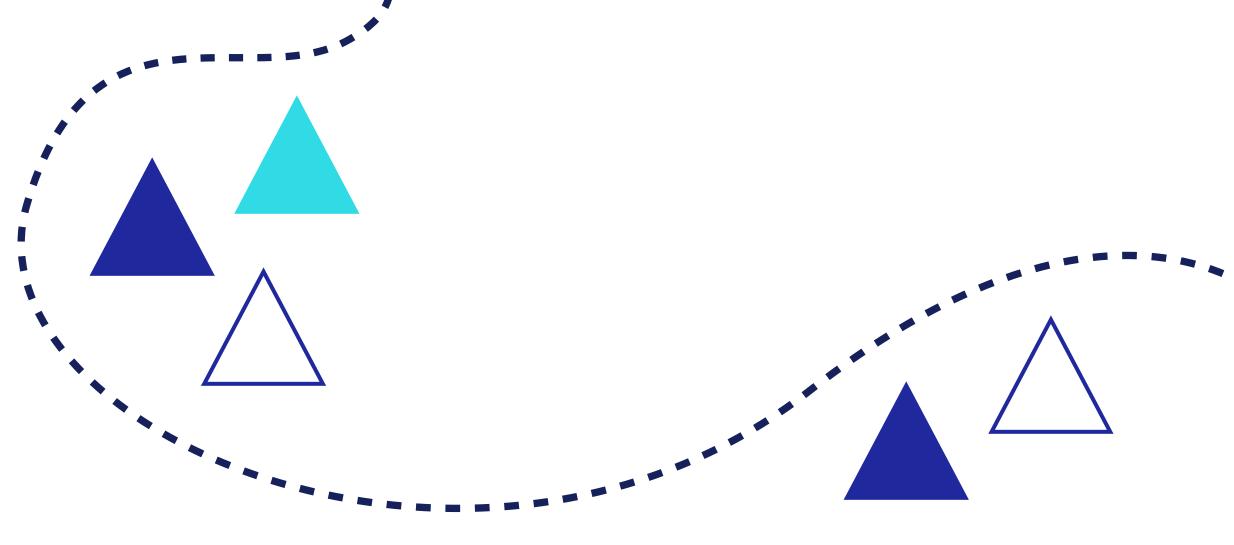
For more than 15 years, we've approached this report with one goal in mind: To provide comprehensive insight into the behaviors and perceptions of journalists for the public relations professionals who seek to connect and build valuable relationships with them. Our platforms reflect that mentality. PR Newswire, the industry's leading press release distribution partner, helps brands share their most important news stories across the world, while CisionOne, our award-winning, all-in-one platform is designed to help modern PR and corporate communications teams navigate the constantly evolving media landscape. This combination of industry insight, data-driven expertise, and innovative solutions empower media relations professionals all over the world with the resources they need to see and be seen, understand and be understood by the audiences who matter most.

# To learn more about how to apply the insights and findings from this year's report into your own communications strategy, schedule a consultation with an expert today.

Speak To An Expert

# 



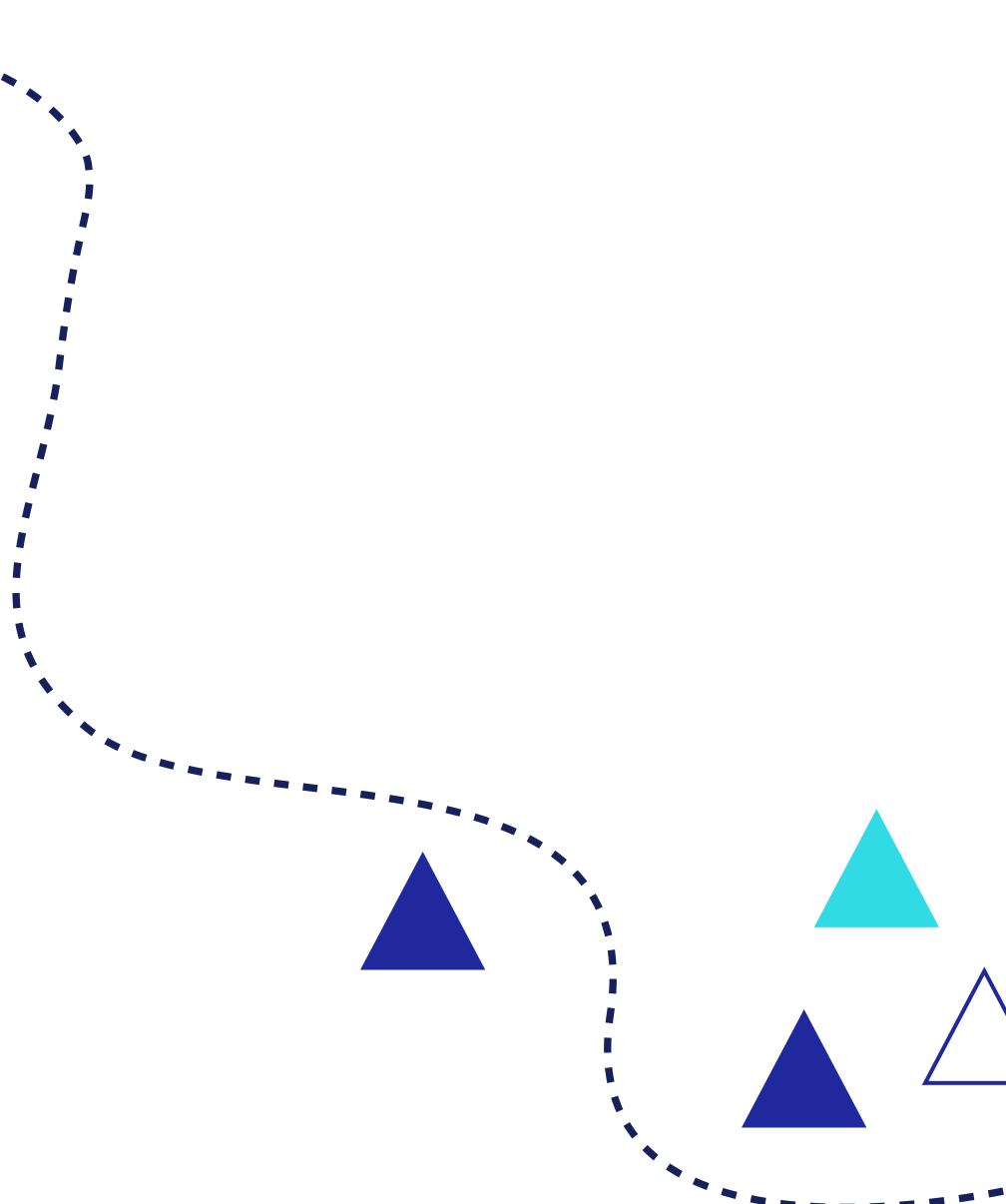


#### Methodology

Cision conducted its 2025 State of the Media survey in January and February of 2025. Surveys were emailed to Cision Media Database members, who are vetted by the company's media research experts to verify their positions as media professionals, influencers, and bloggers. We also made the survey available to media professionals in the PR Newswire for Journalists database.

This year's survey collected responses from 3,126 respondents in 19 markets across the globe: U.S., Canada, UK, France, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Spain, Portugal, China, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. For select questions throughout this report, respondents were permitted to choose more than one answer, resulting in percentages exceeding 100%. A portion of the questions asked in the survey were also optional, so some questions may have been skipped by participants, resulting in percentages less than 100%.

It's also important to note that for this year's survey, we evolved several questions to derive more insightful data. As a result, direct comparisons to previous years' data may not be available. Any direct comparisons we were able to make to last year's data are noted throughout the report.



#### About Cision

Cision is the global leader in consumer and media intelligence, engagement, and communication solutions. We equip PR and corporate communications, marketing, and social media professionals with the tools they need to excel in today's data-driven world. Our deep expertise, exclusive data partnerships, and award-winning brands and products, including CisionOne, Brandwatch, and PR Newswire, enable over 75,000 companies and organizations, including 84% of the Fortune 500, to see and be seen, understand and be understood by the audiences that matter most to them.



Copyright © Cision Ltd. All Rights Reserved. 300 S Riverside Plaza, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60606 | 866.639.5087