

How to be an Ethical Journalist



Seek the Truth, Report the Truth

- Use reliable sources and fact check
- Withhold bias from reporting
- Gather as much info as possible. Get a multidimensional view of the topic.
- Avoid stereotyping, assuming, and oversimplifying.
- Avoid unethical methods of gathering intel. Avoid undercover stints.
- Grant anonymity only to those who face actual danger if their identity were revealed. Otherwise name all sources
- Be upfront about what is commentary or advocacy

Minimize Harm

- Weigh the need for the public to know to the harm it could cause either the public or the source.
- Be compassionate. Think before publishing.
- Just because something can be published, does not mean it should be.
- Avoid libel and defamation.
 - Do not slander for sake of slander.
 - Confirm claims are truthful
 - Do not set out to harm.
- Consider long term effects of words

Act Independently

- Work for the public
- Don't accept bribes or blackmail
- Avoid conflicts of interest
- Do not pay for sources
- Openly label sponsored content
- Refuse gifts, money, free travel, and special treatment from advertisers and corporations with specific interests.

Be Transparent

- Respond promptly to questions about accuracy
- Encourage dialogue about reportings
- Don't hide sources unless revealing them does them harm.
- Admit to mistakes and correct promptly
- Expose instances of unethical journalism
- Hold self and others accountable to high standards