

ABCs of Ethics

Media Law & Ethics

TODAY

We will **understand core beliefs and behaviors of journalists.**

I will **apply the ethical duties of journalists to scenarios.**

ON YOUR OWN

What should you do in this situation? Are you breaking a law? What happens if you don't comply with the request?

You get an email from an alumnus from 10 years ago asking you to take down a story from the website about him being arrested for getting drunk at school and setting off an explosive device in the cafeteria.

He says he served time, grew out of his immaturity and became a lawyer, but the story is keeping him from getting a job.

ON YOUR OWN

What should you do in this situation? Are you breaking a law? What happens if you don't comply with the request?

There is no right answer. This is an ethical dilemma.

Journalists have a duty to report and document history, which they are doing here by being accurate. They also have a duty to do no harm and be fair, which is being violated here.

YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED

1. *Journalists have a duty to **be accurate & transparent**.*
2. *Journalists should **be balanced, unbiased and exhibit fairness**.*
3. *Journalists should **write with concision and understandability**.*
4. *Journalism **serves democracy** — *being a watchdog of public officials and get facts to voters so they can make **informed decisions**.**
5. *Journalists help its readers by **providing vital information and helping to make sense of the vast amount of information going on around them**.*

ON YOUR OWN

Write a version of this sentence that violates each of the three main ethical codes — accuracy, balance and concision.

Correct sentence:

The senator voted against the bill that would ban driving while under 18.