

## **Activity: Exploring Media Ethics Dilemmas—Scenarios**

- 1. **Anonymous Source:** A journalist receives a tip about a major corporate scandal from an anonymous source. The information is crucial for public awareness, but the source refuses to reveal their identity due to fear of retaliation. Should the journalist publish the story without verifying the source's credibility?
- 2. **Graphic Content:** A news editor has access to a video showing a violent incident. The footage is graphic and disturbing, but it captures a significant news event accurately. The editor must decide whether to air the video, potentially traumatizing viewers, or to edit it to remove the most disturbing parts, risking accusations of censorship.
- 3. **Conflict of Interest:** A reporter is assigned to cover a political election, and it is revealed that they have a close personal relationship with one of the candidates. Should the reporter recuse themselves from the assignment, or is it possible to maintain impartiality?
- 4. **Clickbait vs. Accuracy:** An online news platform receives a story with a sensationalized headline that is likely to generate a high number of clicks and views. However, the story's content is not well-supported by the facts. Should the platform prioritize clicks and revenue, or stick to accurate and responsible reporting?
- 5. **Privacy Invasion:** A photographer captures a powerful and emotionally charged image of a grieving individual at a tragic accident scene. The photo has the potential to convey the gravity of the situation, but it clearly shows the person's face in a moment of extreme distress. Should the image be published, even though it invades the person's privacy?

- 6. **Breaking News Accuracy Dilemma:** A news outlet receives information about a breaking news event from an unofficial source before any other outlet. The information is not yet verified, but it's potentially a major scoop. Publishing the information could be advantageous, but there's a risk of spreading false or misleading information. Should the outlet wait for official confirmation before reporting the news?
- 7. **Conflicting Editorial Views Dilemma:** A newsroom consists of a diverse team of journalists with varying political and ideological beliefs. The editorial team is tasked with covering a controversial political event. Some team members want to emphasize one perspective, while others want to focus on an opposing viewpoint. How should the outlet balance these conflicting editorial views to ensure fair and unbiased reporting?