

Case Study 1: Teen suicide

Additional materials

These materials are provided to support material available in the lecturer notes and student notes for case study 1.

Ten questions to guide the journalist through the decision-making process:

1. What do I know? What do I need to know?
2. What is my journalistic purpose?
3. What are my ethical concerns?
4. What organisational policies and professional guidelines should I consider?
5. How can I include other people, with different perspectives and diverse ideas, in the decision making process?
6. Who are the stakeholders – those affected by my decision? What are their motivations? Which are legitimate?
7. What if the roles were reversed? How would I feel if I were in the shoes of one of the other stakeholders?
8. What are the possible consequences of my action? Short term? Long term?
9. What are my alternatives to maximise my truth-telling responsibility and minimise harm?
10. Can I clearly and fully justify my thinking and my decision? To my colleagues?
To the stakeholders? To the public?

Black, J., Steele, B., & Barney, R. (1997). *Doing Ethics in Journalism* (3rd ed.). New York: Allyn & Bacon.

Bok's three-step model for making the decision:

1. How do you feel about what you're considering doing?
2. How would you feel if you were the subject of the report?
3. Is there another way to achieve the objective without doing the contentious act?

Bok, S. (1978). *Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life*. New York: Random House.