**Handout 1**

Have the students discuss these and other issues for the rest of the class period in small groups, trying to reach a decision in the group. Each group would note its answers and rationale for the next day’s discussion. Each group should prepare a short presentation on their decision.

For each of these (and for the Day 1 homework) please use the following discussion questions as a guide:

• Whether students feel use of anonymous sources is justified and why or why not?

• Whether it could depend on the situation or topics, and why or why not?

• Whether there is any difference between their use depending on the medium involved – print, online, other; commercial or scholastic; newsmedia or other types, like magazine or yearbook.

• How do you know when using an anonymous source is appropriate and/or justified? What ethical, legal or journalistic principles help guide your decision?

• Does the article have credibility?

Depending on your story situation, these questions might also be factors and need to be addressed:

• When (or if) should names of victims be used? Another question here is whether to use alleged perpetrator names (rape victims and alleged attackers, for example).

• If reporters use the names of alleged perpetrators, should they also use the names of alleged victims?

• Should information be used from social media sites without verification, even if anonymously?

Specific questions students should consider could include:

• Is the story crucial to the public?

• Is the information this source will provide crucial to the story?

• Can the information be corroborated?

• Do you trust the source? Why?

• Is there any other way to get the story?

• Does this source have first-hand knowledge of what he or she is describing?

• Can you report how the source knows the information?

• Does the source benefit from your publication of the story? Who else might benefit, lose?

• Would the source be harmed by publication or his or her name? Can your make that clear to the audience?