**Suicide**

**This scenario is now in the day 1 slideshow — students are working on it in pairs.**

You just heard via social media that a junior student committed suicide. The school has not responded. You are in charge of your school’s news website, Twitter and other social media. You try to get ahold of the person who tweeted the information. You have been told you need to always be first with the news. What do you do?

Follow-up (also on slide): If you retweeted using the new organization’s Twitter, what would you do if you learned it was all a hoax?

For all of these, encourage students to refer to the slideshow and the points discussed. You should encourage students to use their notes from the slideshow when working on these scenarios.

**Scenario 1 - Car Crash**

Two cars of students crashed into one another after racing down a side street. The side street is known in the teen population for such activity. While no one was killed, all occupants were taken to the hospital with non life threatening injuries (but the injuries are obvious — broken bones, neck brace, etc). Some of the parents of the injured students heard the newspaper students are writing a story about the crash. At least one called the school telling the assistant principal the newspaper students can’t write the story. The adviser gets a call from the new assistant principal, who has explained to the parents that the newspaper students can and probably will write the story, warning the adviser about the angry parents. The adviser is peppered with multiple requests concerning the injured students’ fragile mental state. One parent has even offered to bring in a trauma counselor to talk to the newspaper students concerning the impact a story could have on the injured students.

**Scenario 2 - Baby in a portrait?**

A senior girl had a baby and now wants the baby in her senior portrait, which will be included in the senior panels (not an advertisement). Her very vocal parents support her decision to include the photo of the two of them for the yearbook. Your portrait photographer took one with the baby and one of just the senior girl. You’ve checked your yearbook policies and nothing pertaining to senior portraits apply.

What do you do?

**Scenario 3 - Possible student death?**

A junior student is missing from a single-engine plane crash. She had been working toward her pilot’s license for two years and just became old enough to fly solo. The school has made an announcement she is missing, but said because of the sensitivity of the situation and the fact she is still listed as missing, no media coverage should occur.

**Scenario 4 - Test Scores**

The school notified the parents that the sophomore reading score percentile slightly dropped, and the superintendent is personally looking into the matter. During your investigation, you found the actual data on the state department of education: Reading test scores dropped from 80 percent proficient to 52 percent proficient. The school is the only one in its conference to have such a drop, and you notice most of the other schools in the state gained proficiency. In fact, the state average climbed from 60 percent to 80 percent. After verifying the information with the state department of education, you’ve approached the English department head and administration concerning the significant drop. Immediately both refuse comment. However, one member of the English department has agreed to speak on condition of anonymity.

Is the story worthwhile? If it is, how would you approach sources after evaluating the stakeholders’ perspective? Would you be harming the reader if you didn’t publish the story? Remember to use specific points from the slideshow in your answer.

**Scenario 5 - Bullying on camera?**

Student broadcast news crew filmed B roll to accompany a story about the overcrowded hallways. In the middle of the B roll, the camera catches a senior girl pushing a freshman boy into a locker. The boy has a history of being maligned by peers. The footage includes the senior girl slamming the locker door shut — with the freshman still in the locker. The senior girl and freshman boy are both easily recognizable from the footage. It’s a great piece of videography. You ask the boy about it, and he refuses to speak. You know the girl is mean because she’s been mean to you previously.

What do you do? Do you change the story to bullying in the overcrowded hallways? What if the administration hears you have the video? What do you do then? Could this impact your ability to film in the future — especially when students are caught in a compromising position?

**Scenario 6 - Academic team berated by coach**

The school’s academic team has had better days. The team started its season 0-3. The coach, a mild mannered math teacher, has begun verbally berating students about their lack of preparation for the events. One student came to the writer claiming that she heard from her best friend that “The teacher called me an F-ing waste of space.” She added that others have claimed the coach called them stupid imbeciles if they didn’t get an answer correct in practice.