

**PBS NewsHour Extra Student Reporting Labs  
WORKSHEET C: Accuracy, Fairness or Clarity?**

**Lesson 1.2: Journalism Ethics, News Judgment and the ABCDEF's of Journalism**

*Instructions:* You are the editor of your school's newspaper. In each of the following scenarios, you are asked to consider a situation. Make a decision about who you will cover, what your angle will be and what you will publish. Will yours be an ethical decision? Include in your answer whether **accuracy**, **fairness** or **clarity** is in question.

1. A student at your school is highlighted on the local TV news. A reporter for the school newspaper uses information from the TV newscast without giving credit to the station. It turns out that several facts from the news report are wrong. **Do you admit the mistake? Do you tell how you got the incorrect information?**
  
2. A well-known musician is filming an anti-smoking PSA (public service announcement) at your school. The school newspaper photographer gets pictures of him smoking a cigarette during a break. Your photo editor wants to run the photograph with the cutline "Rock Star Filmed Anti-Smoking PSA on Tuesday." **Do you reword the caption?**
  
3. The owner of a local business has refused to buy an advertisement in your newspaper. He graduated from your school, so you are really ticked that he won't support his alma mater. Later that day, as you look at the sports spread, you notice that the photo of the cross country track event that the sports editor plans to use has a billboard in the background with the local business's name prominently displayed. It would be easy to remove the billboard with photo-editing software. **Do you alter the photograph?**
  
4. The daughter of the principal at your rival high school has been arrested on drunken driving charges. **Do you report it?**
  
5. One of your best friends says she saw the new basketball coach smoking marijuana at a rock concert. You tell the newspaper adviser that someone told you about seeing him and that you plan to report it in your concert review. The coach tells you he wasn't even at the concert. **Do you report the allegation?**