



School of Journalism and Communication

PUBLISHING POLICY

The School of Journalism encourages students to seek publication of their work when it is to the benefit of the student and the School. When the work is done in association with the School, however, certain ethical considerations come into play.

1. When any two individuals or groups are engaged in a professional project, each should have the right to decline to be associated with publication of the project if it is considered to be below standard. In the School of Journalism, this works both ways: a student's work may not be published by the School if the student feels it is not up to standard; similarly, the School should be able to dissociate itself from a substandard project in which it has been involved.

Hence before publishing a student's work, an instructor must clear it with the student, unless publication is implicit in the assignment. And any student who plans to publish a piece of work that is linked to the School must first obtain permission from the instructor, unless they intend to avoid any mention of their relationship to the School.

This policy is designed to ensure that neither the student nor the School is vulnerable to criticism or legal action concerning an item not approved for publication by one or the other.

2. Frequently, your contact with sources may be by virtue of your status of "journalism student." When this is the case, you should make clear to the source at the outset of the interview whether you intend to publish. If you have not made it clear that you intend to publish, or if you later decide to publish, you should check back with your source.

Off-the-record remarks which a source may give you for a class assignment but not for general publication may raise serious professional problems. If you publish and your source feels you have betrayed him or her, the reputation of the School will suffer and the chances for future contacts, both for yourself and for other journalism students, will be impaired. Obtaining information under false pretence (for example, saying that the interview is for a School assignment and then writing it for publication) may bring about the same undesirable results.

3. Projects for the School are undertaken for their educational value and not because there is potential profit involved. It has been the experience of the School, however, that some work done within courses has market value. It is a long-standing policy of the School that faculty may not accept any financial remuneration for their part. As for students, the School normally waives control over the proceeds of the sale of such material when the bulk of the work has been done by students (whether individually or in groups) and subject to the ethical considerations above.