

## Topic 1.6. Principles of Journalism. Gathering Sources

### Exercise 1. Read the text.

A principle is a fundamental, really important truth that is the basis of something.

So the principles of journalism are the things that journalists have to remember to do all the time.

There are 10 fundamental principles of journalism. The first two principles, verification and objectivity, are important for journalists to remember when they are finding their sources or information.

The next four principles, originality, completeness, transparency, and fairness, are the principles that a journalist needs to remember when they are telling the story, meaning when they are actually writing their article.

The final four principles include restraint, humanity, accountability, and empowerment. These principles are about how journalism can impact people, meaning how people are affected by the articles that a journalist writes.

Let's start by talking about the principles that journalists need to remember when they are gathering sources, meaning they are talking to the important people in a story.

For example, if there was a car accident, a journalist needs to talk to the people who actually saw it happen. We call these people eyewitnesses. When the journalist is talking to these people, they are gathering sources. Another example is when a journalist wants to know more information for a story, and so they go to a library or research online. This is also gathering sources.

Let's talk about some of the important principles that a journalist needs to remember when they are gathering sources, verification and objectivity. The first important principle is called verification. This is when journalists make sure that the information they get is accurate or true.

How can they know if their sources are true and accurate? Let's look at these two ideas. Being accurate means always having the correct facts, such as names, dates, places. When a journalist gathers sources by speaking to a witness or researching documents, they should always make sure that they write down the correct information so that it's accurate when they use it in their article.

We'll talk about how to take accurate notes in future videos. How can journalists verify a source to know that the information they get is accurate and true? It's not always easy, but they can consider these things. Is the source primary, meaning is it original? If we consider the car accident we looked at earlier, an eyewitness is a primary source, while someone who just heard about the accident is not. Does the source have expert knowledge? For a car accident, an expert on road safety or an automotive engineer would be a good source of information.

The second principle is objectivity. This means reporting the facts without favoring one side or another. However, objectivity can be difficult to define. A journalist must think about the weight of evidence, meaning that they should gather many sources.

And if most sources say one thing and very few say the other, they should give more importance to the majority view. A journalist should not give equal time or

weight to an opinion based on facts that are clearly not true. So in this video, we learned what a principle is, and that there are 10 principles of journalism.

We looked at the principles of journalism that have to do with gathering sources, verification and objectivity.

## Exercise 2. Vocabulary Practice - Principles of Journalism

**Directions:** Choose the best definition for each principle of journalism.

10 points possible (graded)

1. verification

- the process of establishing the truth, accuracy, or validity of something
- just and reasonable behavior
- entire, full, not missing anything out

2. originality

- the quality of being novel and new
- the act of keeping something under control
- being responsible for your actions

3. objectivity

- the process of establishing the truth, accuracy, or validity of something
- a lack of bias, judgement or prejudice
- compassion and consideration for others

4. completeness

- entire, full, not missing anything out
- the quality of being novel and new
- to give power to those who do not have it

5. transparency

- being responsible for your actions
- an honest way of operating that allows other people to see what you are doing
- a lack of bias, judgement or prejudice

6. fairness

- just and reasonable behavior
- the quality of being novel and new
- compassion and consideration for others

7. restraint

- the act of keeping something under control
- the process of establishing the truth, accuracy, or validity of something
- an honest way of operating that allows other people to see what you are doing

8. humanity

- compassion and consideration for others
- entire, full, not missing anything out
- a lack of bias, judgement or prejudice

9. empowerment

- just and reasonable behavior ng
- an honest way of operating that allows other people to see what you are doing
- giving power to those who do not have it

10. Accountability

- responsibility for your actions
- entire, full, not missing anything out
- giving power to those who do not have it