***Lesson Summary:***

The purpose of this lesson is to understand how to implement good practice in reporting sensitive, tragic and emotional stories using appropriate ethical standards.

***Estimated Duration:***

This lesson will be taught over the course of two class sessions, 60 minutes each day.

Reading Materials:

* [RTNDA Code of Ethics](https://www.rtdna.org/content/rtdna_code_of_ethics)
* [SPJ Code of Ethics](https://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp)
* [Guidelines for Respecting Privacy](http://www.rtdna.org/content/respecting_privacy#.U_QrwUsaWG8)
* [Guidelines for Reporting on a Suicide](http://www.rtdna.org/content/reporting_suicide)

***Instructional Procedures:***

Day 1: (60 mins)

* Reviewing a journalist’s “Code of Ethics.”
  + What is it?
    - [RTNDA Code of Ethics](https://www.rtdna.org/content/rtdna_code_of_ethics)
  + If it’s legal, then I can publish it?
    - Not quite. There may be no legal consequences, but there are ethical concerns to consider.
    - [SPJ Code of Ethics](https://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp)
    - What does “Minimize Harm” mean?
  + [Guidelines for Respecting Privacy](http://www.rtdna.org/content/respecting_privacy#.U_QrwUsaWG8)

Day 2: (60 min)

* GROUP ACTIVITY: (60 min)
  + Students will work in small groups to complete the “Ethics Activity” in the PowerPoint presentation attached to this lesson plan.
  + Complete the activity and submit a Word document with your answers and explanation as requested in the PowerPoint presentation.

***Homework Options and Home Connections***

* Following Day 1: Students will read/watch “[Guidelines for Reporting on a Suicide](http://www.rtdna.org/content/reporting_suicide)”

***Materials and Resources:***

* Online Access
* PowerPoint Access

***Attachments***

* Students will be provided with the PowerPoint presentation to use as a guide through their activity.

***Assessment:***

* Students will be assessed based on their classroom participation (15 points) and their group assignment (25 points). TOTAL: 40 points

***Scoring Guidelines:***

* ***Please see attached rubric.***