**WATCH:**

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**Source:** [International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzVViRumo0k1EcQ6Ok_hBpw)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=46&v=41TaEGkRZEI&feature=emb_title>

**READ:**

* [**Marking one year of #MeToo coverage**](https://www.cjr.org/the_media_today/one-year-metoo-weinstein.php)
* [**Which sexual harassment and assault stories should you cover? Here are some guidelines**](https://www.poynter.org/ethics-trust/2017/which-sexual-harassment-and-assault-stories-should-you-cover-here-are-some-guidelines/)

**ACTIVITY: How would you respond to the situation below:**

A student reporter has written a hazing story. She has quotes from the star rushing back of the football team saying freshmen and sophomores are beaten with electrical cords and belts at summer football camp held at school. Other senior members confirmed this. She has quotes from a student trainer who says he consoled a player at camp who had 1/2 to 1 inch marks on his back from the beatings and had good size bruises from being beaten by tennis balls in a sock. The reporter has quotes from two "victims" who said they were beaten badly but it was OK-, they're not complaining because it is part of being a football player. The reporter took this info to athletic director and head football coach for comment. AD says it was the first he'd heard of it, it sounds like the rough play of boys being boys, no harm intended and to not make a big deal of it.

The coach became VERY upset with the reporter. He said the paper only focuses on the negative, not the positives like the number 4 ranking of the football team (it's favored to win state this year). He called the reporting sloppy journalism and he believes school newspapers should be PR publications--only print positive stuff. He gave the reporter a quote. . .football camp is wonderful, it's building block for the season, of course, coaches can't know every minute what's going on.

He asked for the story to be pulled. The AD has asked to meet with the adviser the editor and reporter. The staff is determined to run the story. They are trying to cover all their bases. Everyone is going on record. The principal, because she is out of town, has no idea about any of this. Does the adviser and/or editor have an obligation to tell her about the abuse (although the AD claims it's not abuse. . .just rough play)? The principal has never censored the paper before). The staff and adviser are wondering if coaches could be fired over the story? And of course, run­ning any article that makes the almighty football team look bad will probably alienate every coach and make future sports coverage difficult. What would you do?

**ACTIVITY**: What would you do?

* Students will be paired in groups to identify how to handle the above scenario,
* Students will answer the following questions:
  + How would you define the importance of sharing this story?
    - Who will this affect?
    - What could this impact?
      * Example: sports culture in schools?
  + Who would you contact for additional information?
    - Principal?
    - Superintendent?
    - Parents?
  + How would you weigh the threat of the sports department alienating the student media?
    - Should this be taken into consideration? Explain your reasoning and how it would play a role.
  + What are your thoughts about only printing positive stories as the AD suggested?
  + How would be transparent in your investigation and reporting?
* Explain why you would or wouldn’t run the story.