**Visual Ethics Activity**

READ/LISTEN: [Documenting Tragedy: The Ethics Of Photojournalism](https://www.npr.org/2012/12/06/166666261/documenting-tragedy-the-ethics-of-photojournalism)

* What is ethical in documenting tragedy?
  + How do we treat victims? When and why do we protect a victim’s identity or personal images during tragedy?
  + READ: [Why Violent News Images Matter](https://time.com/3705884/why-violent-news-images-matter/)
    - How do you determine when a violent image is essential to the news story?
    - Is there an alternative way to publish an image? Online or through written description?

TAKE A LOOK:

* [**BostonShooting 1**](https://learn.kent.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-9813728-dt-content-rid-134102807_1/xid-134102807_1)
* [**BostonShooting 2**](https://learn.kent.edu/bbcswebdav/pid-9813728-dt-content-rid-134102808_1/xid-134102808_1)

ACTIVITY:

* You are a student editor faced with the decision of whether to run the photo referenced above. Determine the course of action you would take and why. Is it essential to the story?

ANSWERS FOR DISCUSSION:

* Would you run it in your high school media? Under what conditions? Why or why not?
  + In this case, one could argue that the photo should not be published based on its nature. The victim in the photo has passed away. How do you treat victims in other photos? Do you publish their photo without permission from the family? It’s important to weight the impact of the photo and also determine whether it’s essential to the story. In this case, I would argue this is not essential to the story.
* Would it make any difference if the dead person was a current student?
  + A victim is a victim. It’s the responsibility of the journalist to make a decision that minimizes harm.
* What is your criteria for making your decision? What if your students wanted to run the photo?
  + Criteria should include the following:
    - Minimizing harm
      * Will the publication of the photo cause more harm?
    - Is publishing the photo essential to the story?
      * Why? What does the photo capture that words or alternative forms would not be able to convey?
    - Victim privacy