**Ethical Journalism**

**A Handbook of Values and Practices  
for the News and Editorial Departments**

[**Introduction and Purpose**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#introductionAndPurpose)

[The Scope of These Guidelines](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#scope)

[Other Standards of Behavior](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#otherStandardsOfBehavior)

[**Our Duty to Our Readers**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#ourDutyToOurReaders)

[**Pursuing the News**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#pursuingTheNews)

[Personal Relations with Sources](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#personalRelationsWithSources)

[Obeying the Law in Pursuit of the News](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#obeyingTheLawInPursuitOfTheNews)

[Accepting Hospitality From Sources](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#acceptingHospitalityFromSources)

[Dealing with the Competition](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#dealingWithTheCompetition)

[**Protecting the Paper’s Neutrality**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#protectingThePapersNeutrality)

[Providing Financial or Other Advice](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#providingFinancialOrOtherAdvice)

[Speaking Engagements](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#speakingEngagements)

[Competitions and Contests](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#competitionsAndContests)

[The Use of Borrowed Equipment](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#theUseOfBorrowedEquipment)

[Collaboration and Testimonials](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#collaborationAndTestimonials)

[**Participation in Public Life**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#participationInPublicLife)

[Voting, Campaigns and Public Issues](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#votingCampaignsAndPublicIssues)

[Community Service](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#communityService)

[**Advertisers, Marketing, Promotion**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#advertisersMarketingPromotion)

[**Obligations to The Times**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#obligationsToTheTimes)

[Speaking for The Times](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#speakingForTheTimes)

[**Books, Movies, Reprints and Copyright**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#booksMoviesReprintsAndCopyright)

[**Journalistic Work Outside The Times**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#journalisticWorkOutsideTheTimes)

[**Appearing on Broadcast Media**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#appearingOnBroadcastMedia)

[**Sorting Out Family Ties**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#sortingOutFamilyTies)

[Disclosure of Possible Conflicts](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#disclosureOfPossibleConflicts)

[**Investments and Financial Ties**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#investmentsAndFinancialTies)

[Affirming Good-Faith Compliance](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#affirmingGoodFaithCompliance)

[Business-Financial, Technology and Media News](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#businessFinancialTechnologyAndMediaNews)

[Transitional Arrangements](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#transitionalArrangements)

[Annual Filing by Ranking Editors](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#annualFilingByRankingEditors)

[**Rules for Specialized Departments**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#rulesForSpecializedDepartments)

[Sports](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#sports)

[Culture, Styles, Dining](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#cultureStylesDining)

[Art, Pictures, Technology](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#artPicturesTechnology)

[Automobiles](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#automobiles)

[Travel](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#travel)

[**Dealing with Outside Contributors**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#dealingWithOutsideContributors)

[**Appendix**](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#appendix)

[Sample letter declining a gift](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#sampleLetterDecliningAgift)

[Sample letter declining an unsolicited award](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#sampleLetterDecliningAnUnsolicitedAward)

[Letter of understanding with the Newspaper Guild of New York](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#letterOfUnderstandingWithTheNewspaperGuildOfNewYork)

Our Duty to Our Readers

[Top](https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html#Ethical-Journalism)

The Times treats its readers as fairly and openly as possible. In print and online, we tell our readers the complete, unvarnished truth as best we can learn it. It is our policy to correct our errors, large and small, as soon as we become aware of them.

We treat our readers no less fairly in private than in public. Anyone who deals with readers is expected to honor that principle, knowing that ultimately the readers are our employers. Civility applies whether an exchange takes place in person, by telephone, by letter or online. Simple courtesy suggests that we not alienate our readers by ignoring their letters and emails that warrant reply.

The Times gathers information for the benefit of its readers. Staff members may not use their Times position to make inquiries for any other purpose. As noted above, they may not seek any advantage for themselves or others by acting on or disclosing information acquired in their work but not yet available to readers.

Staff members who plagiarize or who knowingly or recklessly provide false