

Discussion Questions: “Coin of the Realm”

1. A student at your school is highlighted on the local TV news. A reporter for the school newspaper uses information from the TV newscast without giving credit to the station. It turns out that several facts from the news report are wrong. Do you admit the mistake? Do you tell how you got the incorrect information?
2. A well-known musician is filming an anti-smoking PSA (public service announcement) at your school. The school newspaper photographer gets pictures of him smoking a cigarette during a break. Your photo editor wants to run the photograph with the cutline “Rock Star Filmed Anti-Smoking PSA on Tuesday.” Do you reword the caption?
3. One of your best friends says she saw the new basketball coach smoking marijuana at a rock concert. You tell the newspaper adviser that someone told you about seeing him and that you plan to report it in your concert review. The coach tells you he wasn’t even at the concert. Do you report the allegation?
4. The Watergate story is considered perhaps American journalism’s defining accomplishment. Two reporters for *The Washington Post*, carefully verifying and expanding upon information given to them by sources they went to great lengths to protect, revealed brutally damaging information about one of the most powerful figures in the United States, the American president. **Is protecting a source more important than revealing all the relevant information about a news story?**

*Questions courtesy of from PBS “Student Reporting Labs.”



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