

Investigative Journalism

Refresher: Investigative journalism often involves:

- Representing the public interest
- Exposing secrets, wrongdoing, harmful practices
- Critically examining institutions and their workings
- Showing how laws are violated or exploited
- Holding the powerful accountable

General types of investigative reporting:

- Scandals
- Institutional abuses
- Dangerous developments
- Positive trends
- Stories of the underrepresented

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Ethical principles to apply to media:

- **Golden Mean**
 - Middle ground between two extremes
 - Associated with Aristotle
- **Categorical Imperative**
 - Some things are **always** right, and some are **always** wrong
 - Associated with Immanuel Kant
- **Utilitarianism**
 - Serve the greatest good for the greatest number
 - Associated with John Stuart Mill
- **Veil of Ignorance**
 - Remove social standing from view of subject
 - Associated with John Rawls
- **Golden Rule**
 - Do onto others as you would have them do onto you
 - Associated with longstanding Judeo-Christian philosophy

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Assignment: Read your group's assigned story, then work together to write up a group response to it. Please include these elements:

- **Summarize the story**

- What is it generally about? Is it a topic that interests students?
- How effective is it on first read? Does everyone agree?

- **Purpose of story**

- Does the story serve the public interest in some way, or not?
- What social good might come out of this story?

- **Fairness of story**

- Does review of facts seem objective?
- People on different sides given chance to comment?

- **Ethics of story**

- Which ethical principles could you apply to the story's approach?
- Different group members can have different answers

- **Overall effectiveness of story**

- In general, how effective is the story, and why?
- Different group members can have different answers