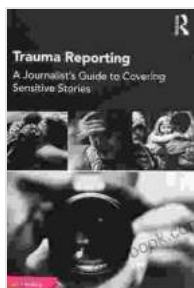


Journalist's Guide to Covering Sensitive Stories Ethically and Effectively

Journalists have a responsibility to report on important stories, even when those stories are sensitive or difficult to cover. However, it is important to do so in a way that is ethical, accurate, and respectful of the people involved.



Trauma Reporting: A Journalist's Guide to Covering Sensitive Stories by Kenneth Kee

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1133 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 218 pages



This guide provides journalists with tips on how to cover sensitive stories with sensitivity, accuracy, and respect. It includes advice on how to approach sources, build trust, and avoid harm.

Approaching Sources

When approaching sources for a sensitive story, it is important to be respectful and upfront about your intentions. Explain why you are interested in the story and what you hope to achieve by writing it. Be clear about how you will use the information you gather and how you will protect their privacy.

It is also important to be aware of the potential risks involved in covering a sensitive story. Make sure you have a plan for how you will protect yourself and your sources from harm.

Building Trust

Building trust is essential when covering a sensitive story. Sources need to feel comfortable sharing their information with you and trusting that you will use it responsibly.

Here are some tips for building trust with sources:

- Be honest and transparent with your sources.
- Respect their privacy and confidentiality.
- Be fair and balanced in your reporting.
- Give your sources a chance to review and approve your work before it is published.

Avoiding Harm

It is important to avoid causing harm to sources or others when covering a sensitive story. This means being mindful of the potential consequences of your reporting and taking steps to mitigate those risks.

Here are some tips for avoiding harm:

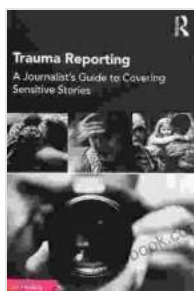
- Be sensitive to the needs of your sources and others involved in the story.
- Respect their privacy and confidentiality.

- Avoid using harmful stereotypes or generalizations.
- Be aware of the potential for retaliation and take steps to protect your sources.

Covering sensitive stories can be challenging, but it is important to do so in a way that is ethical, accurate, and respectful. By following the tips in this guide, journalists can help ensure that their reporting does not cause harm and that the stories of those affected are told with dignity and respect.

Additional Resources

- SPJ Code of Ethics
- Poynter Institute's Guide to Covering Sensitive Stories
- Dart Center's Covering Sensitive Stories Toolkit



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