

The SIGNPOST code of ethics

The Signpost believes the duty of an independent student newspaper is to act as a carrier of information and a forum for discussion for the university community.

- We believe the duty of student journalists, as agents of independent student newspapers and as American journalists, is to serve the truth.
- We believe those responsibilities carry obligations requiring student journalists to perform with intelligence, objectivity, accuracy and fairness.
- To these ends, we declare acceptance of the standards here set forth:

RESPONSIBILITY

Serving Weber State University community's right to know the truth concerning events of public importance and interest is the unifying mission of *The Signpost*. The motive behind gathering and distributing accurate news and enlightened opinion is to serve the general welfare of the university community.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

As is true in the societies of both WSU and the country as a whole, freedom of the press is to be guarded as a right. In the university community, it carries freedom and responsibility to report, discuss, question and challenge actions and utterances of the student government, the administration and other public figures. Student journalists hold the right to speak unpopular opinions and the privilege to agree with the majority.

ETHICS

Signpost staffers must be free of obligation to any interest other than WSU student's rights to know the truth.

1. Gifts, favors, special treatment or privileges can compromise the integrity of staffers. Nothing of value should be accepted in exchange for special coverage, free advertising or endorsements.
2. Involvement in student politics, holding student government office and service in university organizations should be avoided if it compromises the integrity of staffers.
3. *Signpost* editors and reporters acknowledge the ethic of protecting confidential sources of information.

ACCURACY AND OBJECTIVITY

Just as good faith with the public is the foundation of all worthy journalism, so is good faith with the university community the basis of all worthy student journalism.

1. Truth is our ultimate goal.
2. Objectivity in reporting the news is another goal, which serves as the mark of an experienced professional. It is a standard of performance toward which we strive.
3. There is no excuse for inaccuracies or lack of thoroughness.
4. Headlines should be fully warranted by the contents of the articles they accompany. Graphic elements should depict an event's happenings accurately. Photographs should never be altered for any reason.
5. News reports should be free of opinion or bias and represent all sides of an issue.

6. News analyses, opinions and reviews should be labeled as such, so as to not mislead the reader.

FAIR PLAY

Signpost reporters and editors will show respect for privacy, rights and well-being of people encountered in the course of gathering and presenting news.

1. The student newspaper should not communicate unofficial charges affecting the reputation or moral character without giving the accused a chance to reply.

2. *The Signpost* must guard against invading a person's right to privacy.

3. *The Signpost* should be accountable to WSU for their reports and the WSU community should be urged to voice its grievances against the student newspaper. Open dialogue with our readers should be fostered.