

# Check a choice against a code of ethics



Use this when a choice affects the public and a code covers it.

1

## Name the choice

Say what someone is about to do and who it affects.

2

## Find the code that fits

Pick the profession closest to the job, such as journalism.

3

## Read the provision

Find the exact words that apply and quote them.

4

## Decide and explain

Say whether the choice follows the code, and why.

### Example from Case 1

- 1 Should the crew repost the cropped clip?
- 2 Journalism is closest, so use the SPJ code.
- 3 **Real source:** “Verify information before releasing it. Use original sources whenever possible.”  
SPJ Code of Ethics, “Seek Truth and Report It.”
- 4 Reposting before reading the transcript would not follow it.

**⚠ Watch out:** Many codes are voluntary. SPJ calls its code “not a set of rules.”



Sentence  
frames

The choice is \_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_ code says “\_\_\_\_.”

It \_\_\_\_ the code, because \_\_\_\_.