**Ethics: The Power and Responsibility of the Press Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Using the internet and your research skills, see what information you can find out about the following topics?

1. What rights do the press/journalists have in Canada?
2. What about a school newspaper?

**Vocabulary**

Using the internet or a dictionary, look up definitions for the following terms. Put the definitions into your own words. Remember to record the definitions as they pertain to news and journalism.

1. **Ethics:**
2. **Libel:**
3. **Privilege:**
4. **Public Record:**
5. **Rape Shield Laws:**
6. **Fair Comment and Criticism:**
7. **Negative Publicity:**
8. **Incitement to Violence:**
9. **Obscene Language:**
10. **Slanted:**
11. **Propaganda:**

**8 Questions to Ask (to Avoid a Libel Suit):**

1. Is the statement true?
2. Can it be proven in court?
3. Is it free of malice in the sense of disregard for another person?
4. If it is concerned with privileged material – information gained from public records, court sessions, or government – is it reported accurately?
5. If it is concerned with fair comment material – performances or works open to the public (athletic events, entertainment, books, art, exhibitions, and the like) or the activities of people in public life – are the criticisms responsible?
6. If it deals with someone in public life, does it avoid exposing that person’s private life to hatred, contempt, or ridicule?
7. Does the statement suggest that its author is seeking to be truthful and accurate?
8. Was the writer thorough in checking the source of the statement?

**Ethical Guidelines for Journalists:**

* Identify yourself as a journalist or reporter.
* Don’t plagiarize.
* Always do the interviews yourself (and in person, if possible). Ask permission to publish information or photographs (especially if an interview was not conducted).
* Do not change quotes from your sources. Remain as true to the person’s wording as possible. (Exceptions made for grammar or spelling mistakes that would otherwise embarrass the person.)
* Identify your sources within the article with honorifics (Mr., Mrs, etc.), grade levels, or job titles.
* Remain neutral in your reporting. Make sure to have all the facts. Cover all sides of a story.
* Provide definitions and background information (especially legal) where possible.
* Do not accept discounts, coupons, or “freebies.” (Similar to a bribe.)
* Do not stereotype, generalize, or use language inappropriate for your community standards. If you printed something that turns out to be false or incorrect, redact the information, and print a correction with an apology.