

**News Now: Visual Storytelling**  
**Chapter 5, “Legal Considerations”**

**Please type responses on separate paper.**

I. Read Chapter 5, “Legal Considerations”

II. Review Key Concepts terms on page 140 (don’t have to define as part of this homework but will need to know these terms for the midterm exam)

III. Give short answers to the following questions:

1. Fairness and accuracy are very important in news reporting. What are some of the possible consequences of careless reporting?
2. How can an untrue story about a person hurt his or her reputation?
3. What are the five things that a plaintiff must prove in a libel suit?
4. In a libel sense, what are the differences between “public” and “private” people?
5. List a reporter’s three defenses against libel.
6. What is the value of a TV station running a retraction or correction to a news story?
7. News reporters should understand the difference between public and private property. Describe this difference.
8. What should a reporter’s concerns be about using hidden cameras/hidden recordings?
9. What type of private information about a person is “off-limits” to the media?
10. List and define two defenses against invasion-of-privacy lawsuits.
11. What are issues that reporters and others should be concerned about when they desire to use music, film and TV clips in news reports or advertising?
12. Under what situations might reporters use confidential sources and why is it important for reporters to not reveal their confidential/anonymous sources?

IV. Write a paragraph or two in response to two of the eight “Regarding Ethics” scenarios on pages 141-2. Cite applicable libel and/or privacy law element(s) and/or RTDNA standard(s). We will discuss these in class.

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