Title: Applying Ethical Theories & Decision-Making Models

Overview and Rationale:
Ethical fitness should be the goal of all journalists, but it is not merely an acquired skill. It takes conscientious practice and discussion. It takes specific training in ethical decision-making so that journalists can “internalize” the decision-making process and so that sound ethical decisions can be made swiftly, under the pressure of deadlines.

Goals for Understanding:

- Students will learn how to apply 5 different ethical theories and decision-making models. They will practice their ethical decision-making skills with practice scenarios.

Essential Questions:

- What are possible ethical concerns?
- How do I apply this ethical theory to the dilemma?
- How can this ethical theory be used to make a decision?
- Can I clearly and fully justify my thinking and my decision?

Overview and Timeline:

Day 7 (45-minute class)

Anticipatory set/Lead in (5 min.) –

Answer the following prompt and discuss.

“What are some ethical or moral theories you have heard growing up? How are they applied to life?

Step-By-Step Procedures:
1.) Lecture with Guided Notes (35 min.) – Use Ethical Theories Power Point to introduce students to the basic concepts behind each theory and decision-making model.
2.) Exit Slip (5 min.) – Which theory /decision-making model do you think is most useful in making ethical decisions in journalism? Why? Explain.

Assessment:

- Exit Slip

**Day 8-11 (four 45-minute classes)**

*Each day you will choose one ethical scenario to practice. You will break students into groups for discussion and give them the corresponding worksheet for the day. You may want to have the power point from the previous day on the board as a guide for students.*

Day 8 – The Three Principles

Day 9 – The Potter Box

Day 10 – The Bok Model

Day 11 – The Nine Checkpoints

**Anticipatory set/Lead in...EVERY day (5 min.) –**

Read over provided ethical scenario and list ethical concerns.

**Step-By-Step Procedures:**

1.) Group Work (20 min.) – Have students work their way through the appropriate handout and discuss ethical situation.
2.) Discussion (10 min.) – Discuss responses as a class.
3.) Exit Slip (10 min.) – What ethical decision do you think is best in this situation. Why? Explain.

Assessment:

- Discussion
- Exit Slip
Materials & Resources used:

- Ethical Theories & Decision-Making Models Power Point
- Ethical Decision-Making Models for Scholastic Media Publications Handout