

In the Limelight: Ethics for Journalists as Public Figures
Abigail McArthur-Self

1 – Can you think of compelling reasons for news agencies to restrict their reporters' political participation? What kinds of activities do you think should be allowed? Which kinds of activities should be discouraged?

2 – How would you define journalists' responsibility to be unbiased and objective? Do these terms mean the same thing? Why is there so much emphasis placed on these two goals? Who might it benefit?

3 – Many newsrooms place limits on reporters' use of social media, arguing that some individual actions have the ability to undermine the integrity of the entire organization and especially the work of one's colleagues. Do you think this is a reasonable justification for limiting journalists' freedom?

4 – What kind of biases would you say color your own worldview? Would you say that you're unbiased and objective? Are there any biases you have that might undermine your ability to report on a particular topic? How can you tell?