



LESSON PLAN: On Trial: Anonymous Sources, Promises of Confidentiality and Privacy

Vocabulary

Anonymous Source – given or written by a person whose name is withheld

Confidentiality – when used in journalistic settings, usually meaning that whatever said will be held secret or private and will not be repeated

Covert – concealed or hidden

First Amendment –the first of the ten amendments that guarantees basic fundamental rights that comprises the Bill of Rights. It reads:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Grand Jury – a special jury of a statutory number of citizens, usually more than 12, that investigates accusations against persons charged with crime and indicts them for trial before a petit jury if there is sufficient evidence

Privilege (or privileged communication) – a communication that you can not be legally compelled to divulge

Shield Laws – statutes enacted in most states that afford a privilege to journalists not to disclose in legal proceedings confidential information or sources of information obtained by them in their professional capacities

Syndicated – sold for publication in many newspapers or periodicals at one time