

6. Tip-offs-

*these are said to be anonymous or no name

*these are the most dangerous sources of information and should only be used with extreme caution

*never should be used without a lot of checking

7. Attribution-

*Means to tell the readers or listeners the name and the title of the person interviewed or document and got the information from.

Levels of attribution: (depending on whether the source is happy about being publicly identified or whether they want to keep some secrecy about what they tell)

a. On the record- means you can use their words and name

b. Non-attribute- means you can use the information, but not the sources' name

c. Off the record- means you cannot use either the information and the sources' name.

8. Using assumed names-

*this arises when you are writing about the victims of some kind of abuse

Confidential Sources (*Posted in Journalism Ethics: The use of Confidential Sources and Documents*)

Notes:

1. When given information in confidence, you have promised that you will not tell anyone else where you got it from
2. People usually ask for confidentiality because they are afraid of other people finding out they gave you information. They are scared because: they fear their bosses will punish them from sharing private information.
3. Source confidentiality is central to the ethics of journalism.
4. Ethical issue: If you name a source who has given you confidential information in the future, and other people trust. This source will probably never give you confidential information in the future.