**Journalism and Censorship:**

**You’re a young reporter teamed with a novice photographer working for a wire service and you are out to report on events in one of the following countries (countries will be assigned by drawing a number).**

1. Algeria
2. Bosnia
3. Cambodia
4. China
5. Columbia
6. Cuba
7. Egypt
8. Iran
9. Iraq
10. Kosovo
11. Lebanon
12. Malaysia
13. Mexico
14. Nigeria
15. Pakistan
16. Philippines
17. Russia
18. Rwanda
19. Sierra Leone
20. India
21. South Africa
22. Turkey
23. Thailand
24. Venezuela
25. Zimbabwe
26. Jordan
27. Vietnam

Before you leave home, you want to understand what you’ll be facing—you know that the protection of the Australian government is limited and Australian journalists have been held in some countries for some time. You want to find answers to several questions:

1. In “your” country, what cases of censorship, oppression, violations of human rights can you cite? In other words, have journalists been victims of any of the above?
2. What restrictions, limitations or freedoms pertaining to the press can you expect to find in this country? Try to find the country’s constitution or any official document regarding the press in this country.
3. What is going on in this country? What will there be to report on? Civil war or other military conflict, political unrest, a recent coup d’etat, corrupt government, illegal drug trade? Be a detective. Read the local paper if you can.
4. How does this country “measure up” to the [International Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalism](http://www.ifj.org/en/articles/international-code-of-practice-for-the-safe-conduct-of-journalism-1)? In other words, do the actions and/or practices of this country regarding the press meet the ideals set for in this document? Explain how.
5. What organizations exist to help protect you when you are far from home? How do they protect? What do they do?
6. Are there any journalism heroes from this country? Who and why are they heroes? (this is extra effort).

After you learn the truth about what to expect, you have to decide if you still want to go, knowing that if you do not go, you will lose your job. What is your decision? What is the basis for your decision? File a report with your editor (me and the class) that includes a detailed summary of the information you found while trying to answer your questions, your decision about the job and your rationale for that decision. Your report will be oral.  
  
[Committee to protect journalists](http://cpj.org/killed/)  
  
Adapted from:   
<http://mshogue.com/Journalism/press_world.htm>