



## What's the impact of student journalism?

Professional journalists can do impactful stories, uncovering corruption, exposing threats to citizen safety. But so do student journalists; their work also has effected major change in their communities.

### Student assignments at three levels:

**Flashlight:** Explore the past winners of the [Courage in Student Journalism award](#) and the [National Scholastic Press Association's Story of the Year award](#). Consider the stories about the failing schools and teen pregnancies, [local sex-trafficking](#) and an [increase in local gang activity](#). Come to class ready to discuss: Do you see those types of stories in your school media? Why or why not?

**Spotlight:** Explore past winners of the [College Press Freedom Award](#) and the [Associated Collegiate Press Story of the Year award](#). There, you can find stories about how a college's [board of trustees might be in violation](#) of state open meetings laws, a [sorority removed from campus after reports of hazing](#) and [questionable spending by a campus student government](#). Find a similar story in student media on your campus. Come to class prepared to dissect the story. What was the reaction to it?

**Searchlight:** Browse the above links. Brainstorm story ideas. Have the class nominate the top three stories. Using a simple SMS voting site like [Poll Everywhere](#), send out the nominees through your social networks and let people vote on their top story. Back in class, map out that story, including sources, questions, etc. Here's a [Seattle Times tip sheet](#) to help map the story. For extra credit, do the story as a class project.