

Covering the Youth Justice Beat: 5 Tips for Telling the Story with Nuance, Balance and Dignity for Youth

1 Use Person-First Language and Storytelling, e.g.

- Young person accused of an offense > Offender
- Harmed party > Victim

2 Seek Balance & Avoid One-Sided Narratives

Apply healthy skepticism with all of your sources, including police and prosecutors.

3 Expand Your Source Database, to include:

- Local, community-based organizations working on youth legal issues
- Youth leaders and advocates
- Public defenders

4 Seek perspectives from people with lived-experience

Using trauma-informed practices to include youth and families in your reporting

5 Talk to Experts on Background

To get a better understanding of how the youth legal differs from the adult criminal legal system

Additional Reading: (Digital Links Included)

- [10 Crime Coverage Dos and Dont's - The Sentencing Project](#)
- [Tips: Involving Children and Families in Your Reporting - Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma](#)
- [The Language Project - The Marshall Project](#)