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 Don'ts - The Sentencing Project](#)
- [Tips: Involving Children and Families in Your Reporting - Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma](#)
- [The Language Project - The Marshall Project](#)

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