

**Other policy considerations:**

In creating the best policy, either by policy or practice, consider avoiding:

- Imprecise language – a classic example is a prohibition of “offensive” expression, which is not a legally defined terms like “obscene.”
  - Vague obligations of the student staff – “students must include opposing viewpoints” or “controversial material will be discussed with administrators” should be avoided because they set undeliverable standards....
  - Wording that calls your media a student forum but leaves the final decisions to someone other than students.
  - Wording that says your publication’s purpose is to promote and encourage school activities
  - Statements that you won’t publish material not generally acceptable (to a school official, community or a significant majority or minority)
  - Wording prohibiting association of the school with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy
  - Wording that student media should promote and encourage school spirit and to support the best traditions of the school
  - Wording the media should promote cooperation among taxpayers, parents, the school and its students.
- Vague, indefinable and unenforceable is not good.