COMMS 201 - Week 6 Tutorial Notes

Media Law

It is illegal under privacy law to:

1. Badger or question a person persistently
2. Intentionally intercept private communication
3. Record an interview subject without their knowing.
4. Reveal facts that are in the public interest

Honest opinion is an important defence against defamation. Which of the two sentences here is opinion and which is fact, why?

1. This parliamentarian is biased and bigoted.
2. This parliamentarian who voted against homosexual law reform is biased and bigoted.

News Writing

All the following factors are important to consider when writing a news item based on a press release. Explore why each is significant for a journalist to consider as you write a news item.

1. Who wrote it and what their agenda might be.
2. How newsworthy is it really?
3. Does it omit anything and how might you address this?
4. Does it address the four Ws (what, who, why, when) and the H (how) question?

Discuss the Inverted Pyramid structure (see Powerpoint – Interviewing and Press Release writing in Module 6, p.16). Break into four groups, two write a short news item of 4-5 sentences (plus a headline) based on the Ardern release, and two groups based on the Collins press release.