*All the President’s Men* – Connections to Journalism Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
1.  What is the role of the anonymous source in American society and governance?

2.  Jonathan Alter, an editor for *Newsweek* Magazine, said that "If you don't know what's going on in your government, you don't live in a democracy." Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

3.  Should a reporter disclose his source in this situation? The investigation relates to a murder. The source agrees to talk to the journalist only on deep background with a solemn promise from the reporter that the source will never be identified. In the course of the conversation, the reporter becomes convinced that the source is the killer and is trying to use the reporter to spread disinformation to deflect suspicion from the source. What should the reporter do? Does it make a difference if the crime is not as serious as murder?

4.  Is there a difference between Mr. Felt's actions in leaking information about criminal activities in the government and the leak in the following situation: An experienced diplomat is dispatched to a foreign country to evaluate claims that another country was trying to purchase uranium to make atomic bombs. The White House has publicly taken the position that this has occurred. The investigator reports that the White House is wrong, and this is very embarrassing to the president. Someone in the government, seeking to punish the investigator, leaks the fact that the investigator's wife is an undercover CIA operative. The journalist to whom the leak was made publishes the story. It is a crime to publish the name of a CIA undercover operative. Should the reporter disclose the name of the CIA operative? Should the reporter be required to divulge the name of the source?

5.  A government official with very high security clearances discloses a history of the government's involvement in an unpopular war showing that the government lied to the public about the origins of the war and its actions relating to the war. The information is classified and the source, by disclosing it to a reporter, was committing a crime but he was not acting as an agent of the government seeking to punish someone for disagreeing with the White House. Should the reporter be required to disclose his source? Should the source go to jail for his or her actions?

6.  Why did the reporters require that they get at least two sources for each fact that they reported?

7.  What is "investigative journalism" and how does it differ from other types of journalism?

8.  How is the media environment of today different from the media environment of the 1970s?

9.  It has been said that: "The press is the last resort when other institutions of government and society fail." What is meant by that?

10.  If the President and his aides were engaged in a criminal conspiracy today, would they be exposed? Explain.

11.  What is the tension between a television network and its news divisions and how does that express itself?

12.   Do you think that it is significant that Superman, one of America's great fictional heroic figures, was a newspaper man? Was he a character of integrity? Explain.