

# COMMUNITY POLICIES & GUIDELINES

Journalism in the Public Interest

## Community “Do’s”

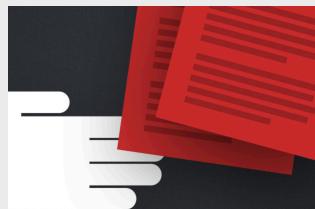
We highly encourage comments and discussion on all of our content.

When you see other social media users sharing our stories, we hope that our readers also take the time to share the article. Include your own comments when you share the post, or RT (retweet) it.

If you are on our website use our buttons found to the left of our articles to share the story on your own social account or email.

It is ok to disagree with people. Confronting other opinions and perspectives is one of the best ways we can learn from one another.

Think you have a news story? Find the red “Leak to Us”



## Borrowing from Industry Leaders

We know that our readers want to comment on our articles whether they find them on our website, or our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Here at ProPublica we understand the importance of public debate and discussions. However, it is too easy to hide behind a computer screen and interrupt the productive conversation with insults, vulgarity, threats, and other offensive comments. We want to promote an inviting space where users don't have to fear comments to come because of the nature of online discussion boards. Following the New York Times' lead, our editors and monitors will be asking themselves whether “your intention is to inform and convince rather than to insult and enrage.”



## Community “Don’ts”

Each digital space has its own way of reporting or flagging questionable content. Please use the respective guidelines in place to monitor comments within our ProPublica community. The New York Times enumerates a few things that are not found acceptable in their comments and felt they were appropriate for our policy as well. We encourage our readers and followers to report or flag the following:

“personal attacks, obscenity, vulgarity, profanity (including expletives and letters followed by dashes), commercial promotion, impersonations, name-calling, incoherence and SHOUTING.”

Users that abuse their flagging abilities or are consistently displaying any of these behaviors will be monitored and handled as described to the right.

Quoted material can be found at the following link:

[https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/20/insider/approve-or-reject-moderation-quiz.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/09/20/insider/approve-or-reject-moderation-quiz.html?_r=0)

## *A step further*

In addition to the guidelines on the left, we will take great care in making sure that users aren’t abusing their flagging abilities on our site.

Flagging more than 25 comments a day will result in our monitors adding you to a watch list. If this limit is exceeded more than 10 times within a one month period you will be blocked from commenting on our site, and/or by our social accounts, whichever is applicable in the situation.

People that are consistently found to be exhibiting the behaviors clearly indicated as community “don’ts” will also be blocked by our social accounts or blocked from commenting on our website for a year.

In any discourse, you are not going to make any progress in persuading your audience by belittling them or using negative language. Behavior that aims to berate or insult will not open up your opposition to be convinced or enlightened and therefore is fruitless in our community. We hope that our guidelines better help people to interact with each other more effectively.

Thanks,

ProPublica Community Leaders

