

## AP STYLEBOOK CONCEPTS

Have students study the list of state abbreviations in AP Stylebook Concepts. Invite one student at a time to come to the board and write the name of a state and the abbreviation for that state. Write the state names in alphabetical order, starting with Alaska. You may want to have one student write all the state names on the board in alphabetical order before class begins.

## AP Stylebook Concepts

In a scholarly text, the names of cities and states are spelled out. **Example** Dayton, Ohio

AP style allows you to abbreviate most state names when used with the name of a city, county or military base. For example, California is abbreviated to Calif. Eight states are never abbreviated. They are Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Ohio, Texas and Utah. To find the abbreviations of the other states, refer to the *Associated Press Stylebook* appendix at the back of this book.

The abbreviations are different from the two-letter abbreviations used by the U.S. Postal Service. The first letter is always a capital letter, followed by small letters, if appropriate. A period comes at the end. Many large cities require no state name (for instance, Chicago and Phoenix, not Chicago, Ill., and Phoenix, Ariz.).

What are two ethical violations in journalism?

## Checkpoint

Fabrication can be more difficult to detect than plagiarism. The editors at *USA TODAY* found this out the hard way. In 2003, an investigation of the work done by one of the paper's star reporters, Jack Kelley, revealed many instances where he had made things up. Kelley resigned, as did two top editors who worked with Kelley. Two other editors were reassigned because the investigation showed there were quotes, descriptions and whole stories fabricated over a number of years that should have been questioned by good editors.

## FABRICATION

There is no fiction writing in journalism, and **fabrication** is fiction writing. Fabrication covers everything from making up quotes and details to make a story more exciting or interesting, to writing a whole story that didn't happen.

Excuses for stealing someone's purse. It is acceptable, however, to use someone else's idea or concept for a story. News organizations routinely take ideas from one another. City newspapers like to *localize* a national story by getting their own sources and examples. The key is that they do their own reporting by finding new and different examples.

Journalists use to write and edit make it easy to cut and paste words from an article used in research right into their own story, sometimes without realizing it. Still, there are no excuses for plagiarism, just as there are no

**ONGOING ASSESSMENT**  
**Checkpoint Answer**  
plagiarism and fabrication