

Invasion of privacy is a personal tort (civil crime). Private individuals can usually claim the right to be left alone, but that right is not absolute. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (also called the Buckley Amendment) forbids educational institutions from releasing any information about any student without written permission. The exception is for the release of directory information.

1

Make A List: Examine publications like "The National Enquirer" and "People" magazine and make a list of items you think might be an invasion of privacy.

2

Question: Are there times the public does not have the right to know everything, such as the information the press printed in the 1990s concerning President Bill Clinton's extramarital affairs?

Look at your list. Under which circumstances are an invasion of privacy and which are not.

3

Make A List: Make a list of things you do not think high school publications should print about students or faculty members because you think such stories would be an invasion of privacy.
