

NEWS & VIEWS: What should the papers print?

ICE-BREAKER (15-20 mins):

- Handout several copies of the Ice-Breaker discussion question (see below).
- Encourage students to give their opinions regarding this subject of news reporting.
- Try not to get side-tracked with any discussion about censorship – that will come later.

NEWS EDITORS (30-45 mins):

- Each group of students should imagine they are a team of news editors at a national television station.
- The news programme they are discussing will be broadcast during prime time when children might be watching.
- Present the team with 12 potential news items (see below).
- The groups should consider/discuss several aspects:
 1. Should these stories/images be broadcast during prime time television?
 2. If not during prime time, when should they be shown, if at all?
 3. As a team, agree on which 5 news items are the most important for the prime time programme they are editing.
- **It is important that you allow students to do this exercise without your direction - your only role should be to ask the occasional question!!!**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (20-30 mins):

1. Which countries today have censorship of the press and television? Why?
2. Has your own country ever had media censorship? When? Why?
3. Do you think that the internet will make censorship a thing of the past?

ICE-BREAKER DISCUSSION

Look at the two opinions regarding the media and news reporting. Which person do you agree with most and why?

(A) “The public has a right to know what is happening in the world. I don’t think that the media should cut out anything. People are mature enough to take in the reality of what happens in the world every day.”

(B) “TV news can sometimes seem more like a show. News programmes want bigger audiences and newspapers want to make more and more money; so they show shocking, provocative and sometimes offensive images. The media should focus strictly on reporting the news, not trying to shock people.”

News Item 1: PROTEST

Images of violent clashes between protestors and activists, and the police. The police have since been criticised for use of excessive force.

News Item 2: FASHION SHOW

Hot fashion designer, Roberto Nudo, has recently shown his new line of virtually transparent evening wear. Both male & female models' bodies can be seen – almost as if they're wearing nothing.

News Item 3: VIOLENCE IN FILMS

Showing examples of violent scenes from recent blockbuster films which have been criticised for glorifying violence.

News Item 4: SUICIDE

The increasing number of suicides is discussed in light of the recent suicide of a little-known politician. Footage of him shooting himself was caught by CCTV cameras.

News Item 5: WAR

Fighting has broken out once again in a sensitive region of the world; there are graphic images of casualties (both military and civilian) on both sides.

News Item 6: PRISON RIOT

A riot has erupted in a large over-crowded prison overseas; images include violent conflict between inmates and prison guards.

News Item 7: DRINKING & DRIVING

Anti-Drink Driving campaigners wish to televise film clips of serious accidents caused by drunken drivers, including images of a dead child.

News Item 8: BANK ROBBERY

CCTV cameras recorded an armed bank robbery in progress. During the robbery a security guard was shot dead and can be seen lying on the floor of the bank.

News Item 9: MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

A 5 year old child is shot dead in the crossfire between Israeli and Palestinian soldiers – pictures have been taken of the parents grieving over the dead child.

News Item 10: FREAK WEATHER

Intense storms have been hitting the south coast and three people were washed out to sea by a huge wave – caught on home video. The bodies have not yet been recovered.

News Item 11: SAFETY IN THE MEAT TRADE

New safety measures for the slaughter of animals are being introduced – footage includes graphic scenes from a large slaughter-house.

News Item 12: ICE HOCKEY

A player has been left blind in one eye after an attack by another player. Slow motion camera is able to show exact details of the attack.