

Teacher Resource

Kids' News Service

Focus Questions

1. Discuss the BTN story with another student.
2. Where in Australia does Jack go to school? Find using Google Maps.
3. AC News only covers local issues. True or false?
4. What year did the kids in the BTN story start their news service?
5. What news story did AC News cover that was a bit of a shock to the community?
6. How has the AC News website given more students the opportunity to get involved?
7. When do the students get time to make bulletins for AC News?
8. How will working on AC News help the students in the future?
9. What was surprising about this story?
10. If you were a reporter what would you report on?

Activity

What makes a good news story?

Students will investigate what makes an event newsworthy. Brainstorm some ideas as a class. Watch the BTN story [News Rules](#) to find out what makes news.

Students will put together their own news program. Students will need to include a good balance of stories across different topics (for example: science, politics, world news, environment, arts, sport and human interest).

Respond to the following questions for each news story.

- Why did you choose this story?
- Summarise the main issue/message.
- Is the news story about a current local issue or an issue from the past?
- Where and when did it happen?
- What new information have you found about it?
- Who is affected by the issue?
- How are they affected by the issue?
- Why is it important for people to know about the issue?
- Why will people be interested in watching the news story?

Key Learning

Students will learn more about what makes a good news story and create their own news report.

AC Curriculum

English – Year 6

Use comprehension strategies to interpret and analyse information and ideas, comparing content from a variety of textual sources including media and digital texts.

Compare texts including media texts that represent ideas and events in different ways, explaining the effects of the different approaches.

Analyse how text structures and language features work together to meet the purpose of a text.

Media Arts – Years 5 & 6

Explore representations, characterisations and points of view of people in their community, including themselves, using settings, ideas, story principles and genre conventions in images, sounds and text.

Plan, produce and present media artworks for specific audiences and purposes using responsible media practice.

Activity

Rookie Reporters

BTN encourages kids to tell their own stories about issues they are interested in or passionate about. Check out these BTN Rookie Reports.



[Storm Girl](#)



[Barefoot to Boots](#)



[Young Carer](#)



[Straw No More Campaign](#)



[Operation Soy Sauce](#)



[Letters to Refugees](#)

Students will create a news report about an issue they feel strongly about or someone doing something interesting in their community. Ask students to think about the following:

- What is the story about?
- Why did you choose this story?
- What words would you use to describe this story?
- Describe the main issue/message in the story.
- What makes this story interesting?

Visit BTN's [Rookie Reporter Training](#) to learn more about how to make a rookie reporter video. The [How to Make News video](#) also gives some useful tips for making your own news story.

Activity

Make a news podcast

Students can share their news stories by creating their own podcasts. Listen to [BTN's news podcast](#) for inspiration.

Steps to create a podcast

1. Make sure you have the required hardware and software – you will need a computer or Smartphone with a microphone and software such as the free [Audacity](#) (PC or Mac). Some Mac's come with [GarageBand](#) which is well suited to making podcasts.
2. Decide on your content and write your script. Who is your audience? How will you keep listeners engaged?
3. Rehearse the content (practise speaking).
4. Record. Create and save an audio file, usually in mp3 format.
5. Publish. To make a podcast you will need to use a free service like [PodOmatic](#), [Buzzsprout](#) or a paid service like [Libsyn](#).
6. Promote your podcast. Your school's website is a good place to start as well as their newsletter and social media sites.

Activity

BTN's Media Literacy Series

BTN has created a series of [media literacy videos](#) to help students understand and question news. Topics include; How to Spot Fake News, News Sources, What is News? How to Spot Bias, and Media Ethics. The videos will help students to critically analyse the news they see, hear or read. Please note – these videos are intended for secondary students.



Useful Websites

BTN – Rookie Reporters

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/rookiereporter/>

BTN – News Rules

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/news-rules/10533890>

BTN – Signing the News

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/signing-the-news/10525786>

Ararat College - AC News

<http://acnews.cf/>