



Teacher Resource

Media Literacy

Activity: Reflect on the News

What have been some big news stories this year? As a class or in small groups, brainstorm a list. Which stories from this year have been important to you? Check the [BTN website](#) to refresh your memory! Students will choose their top 5 news stories and create their own quiz to test their classmates. Students' quizzes should cover a range of categories, for example:

- Science
- Environment
- Technology
- Arts
- Health
- Sport
- Politics
- Entertainment

Students can visit the [BTN stories page](#) and the [BTN subjects page](#) for a range of news topics to browse through. News stories can be a mix of local, national and world news. Students will give reasons why they think these are the top 5 news stories (1-2 sentences for each news story).

Students can include a range of quiz styles, for example:

- Multiple choice, true or false or fill in the blank.
- Use photos or pictures.
- When an answer is revealed, provide extra information to explain the answer.



Students can make their quizzes in [Kahoot](#) or [Quizizz](#). Make it fun, engaging, and educational!

EPISODE 20
30th July 2024

KEY LEARNING

Students will reflect on the news this year and learn more about what makes a good news story and create their own news report.

CURRICULUM

English – Year 6

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

English – Year 7

Analyse and explain the effect of technological innovations on texts, particularly media texts.

Media Arts – Years 3-4, 5-6

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

Activity: What makes something 'news'?

Have you ever wondered what makes news, news? Students will investigate what makes an event newsworthy. Before starting this activity, brainstorm some ideas as a class.

Watch BTN's [News Values](#) video, which explores what makes news, news. This video looks at the news values that determine which stories we see and hear about and which ones we don't and how those news values can shape the way we see the world.

Students will choose a range of current news stories (up to 5 news stories) and evaluate why the story is in the news and what makes it newsworthy? Students can use a T-chart to organise their information.

News Story	Why is it news? What makes it newsworthy?

Activity: Make your own news report

Have you ever dreamt of being a news reporter? Students will produce a short video about someone who's doing something great, doing something interesting or helping others in their community. It could be a friend, family member, schoolteacher, or themselves. Alternatively, you could encourage students to research an issue that affects their local community. Use [this checklist](#) to decide on a story to cover.

1. Choose someone in your community that you want to feature in your news report. Watch some of BTN's [Rookie Reports](#) for inspiration.
2. Write your story – Find out what makes a good feature story [here](#). Celebrate the persons' strengths in your writing. Share your story with the class.
3. Plan your report – Story board your news report on paper.
4. Make your news report – Check out the videos below for a range of tips on how to make a news report.



[Recording great audio](#)



[Shooting the story](#)



[Conducting interviews](#)

Activity: Filming tips

Have you ever wondered what it takes to put together a news story? In [this video](#), Nat explains all about filming, framing and the rule of thirds. Students will then respond to the following focus questions.

Focus Questions

1. What is meant by the term 'framing'?
2. Which way should you hold a smartphone when filming? Why?
3. What is the difference between 'direct' and 'indirect' interview styles?
4. The direct to camera interview style is more natural. True or false?
5. What does it mean to have an eye level camera angle?
6. What is the rule of thirds? Draw a diagram to help explain the concept.
7. What is a camera pan?
8. When starting out it is safer to keep your shots still. True or false?
9. What questions do you have about filming?



Activity: Reporter for a day

Students will be a reporter for a day and choose a story covered in this week's episode of BTN. Write an online news report for kids explaining the story answering the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?

Things for students to think about:

- Who is your target audience? Use age appropriate language and themes.
- Write a headline that is short and to the point.
- Use words and pictures in your report.
- Find information from a variety of sources.
- Present the facts and/or opinions clearly and accurately.



Watch the [Becoming a Journalist](#) video to learn more about how to make a news story.

BTN Newsbreak

Watch BTN every day! Newsbreak is a great way to kick off the morning routine. You can watch Newsbreak anytime on our website or by subscribing to our YouTube channel. Head to the [BTN website](#) for all the details.



Useful Websites

- [Becoming a Journalist](#) – ABC Education
- [How to Make News: Filming, Frame & the Rule of Thirds](#) - BTN
- [What Makes News, News?](#) - BTN