

BREAKING THE NEWS: QUICK COURSE

These learning materials enable students to study television news within the context of Media Studies, English, Citizenship and related subject areas. They focus on a practical approach to TV news production and an analysis of key roles and processes. Several short tasks and resources are included, as well as guidance to support a simulated news production event.

CURRICULUM CONTEXT

These materials can be used with students of Media Studies at GCSE and AS/A2 Level as well as for teaching the National Curriculum Programme of Study for Citizenship and English at Key Stage 4.

The activities require students to reflect on the practical challenges faced by TV journalists, and provide opportunities for them to explore the conflicts faced by editors and reporters (Citizenship 1g). Structured small group discussion is used to afford students the opportunity to justify their opinions orally (Citizenship 2b). Discussion of the competing demands of the various individuals involved in the news production process allows students to take part in exploratory discussion (Citizenship 2c). Throughout the course students should be encouraged to empathise with the stages through which stories pass before they hit our screens and to imagine another person's point of view. They should be encouraged to articulate viewpoints other than their own (Citizenship 3a, English *EN1* 3a - e). In studying the different roles and skills of individuals and groups involved in the production process, students will be able to identify the perspectives offered on individuals, communities and society at large (English *EN2* 1d, 1e). Students will be taught to appreciate how meaning is conveyed in a short news bulletin (English *EN2* 5a) as well as the ways in which the audience of TV journalism responds to the media (English *EN2* 5d).

Work in this course will enable students of Media Studies to become more familiar with the practical demands of news production. The activities suggested support GCSE and AS/A2 Assessment Objectives in the following ways:

OCR GCSE Media Studies AO4, AO5, AO6
AQA GCSE Media Studies AO1a, AO1b, AO2b, AO3a, AO3b
WJEC GCSE Media Studies AO1, AO2
OCR AS Level Media Studies AO2, AO3, AO4, AO8
AQA AS/A2 Level Media Studies AO2, AO3i, AO4
WJEC AS/A2 Level Media Studies AO1i, AO2ii, AO5
BTEC Level 4 Certificate in Media: Professional Context for Digital Video Editing

The course can also be used in Scottish Qualifications Authority Intermediate 2 and Higher Media Studies courses: The meaning and construction of news, audiences, media production.

RESOURCES

Activities are integrated with stories and resources found on the Breaking the News site, including masterclasses recorded with members of the Channel 4 news production team.

Worksheets are available in downloadable PDF or in Word files that you can tailor to your own requirements. The activities are suitable for a range of attainment levels, and teachers are advised to select the material most appropriate for their students.

SIGNPOSTING

Symbols are used to identify content in the course:

 = ACTIVITY  = PROMPT SCRIPT  = TEACHER NOTES

COURSE OUTLINE

SESSION 1: WHAT IS NEWS?

Outcomes:

- discussed, questioned and determined the difference between news and rumour
- explored the elements that make a story interesting
- deconstructed a news story in detail

1. INTRODUCTION: Breaking the News
2. DISCUSSION: How rumour becomes news
3. ACTIVITY: What is a story?

SESSION 2: SELECTING THE NEWS

Outcomes:

- deconstructed a news story in detail

3. ACTIVITY: What is a story? contd.
4. ACTIVITY: What makes a story newsworthy?
5. MASTERCLASS 1: Analysing TV news – Reporter Lucy Manning

SESSION 3: TV JOURNALISM

Outcomes

- understood the aims of TV journalism, including the social responsibility of the news journalist
- explored the importance of objectivity and fairness in news reporting

6. ACTIVITY: The aims of TV journalism
7. ACTIVITY: Journalistic ethics
8. MASTERCLASS 2: Working in TV journalism – Programme Editor Julie Hulme

SESSION 4: ANALYSIS OF NEWS

Outcomes

- considered working with language, images and sound and the kinds of audiences addressed by different news stories

9. ACTIVITY: Working with language, images and sound
10. MASTERCLASS 3: News and society – Presenter Alex Thomson

SESSION 5: PRODUCING NEWS STORIES

Outcomes

- understood the roles and skills of the personnel involved in news production
- understood the stages in production through which a story travels

11. ACTIVITY: Planning for news production
12. ACTIVITY: Story production
13. MASTERCLASS 4: Producing TV news – Newsbelt Producer Bridgid Nzekwu

SESSION 6: THE DEBRIEF

Outcomes

- evaluated their role in the production of TV news.

14. ACTIVITY: Debrief