



Journalistic writing lesson plan ideas

This lesson plan is intended to tie in with the 'journalistic writing' unit as part of the national literacy framework. It can be completed over a number of lessons.

<http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/primary/primaryframework/literacy/planning/Year6/Nonfiction/unit2/>

Aim

To introduce the children to reporting in a written and oral journalistic style

Through this task the children will:

- Compare a range of journalistic reports – oral and written.
- Read and analyse some of the texts – identify key language, structure and presentational features as preparing for writing.
- Write a news report about an incident and use this as a basis for an oral radio news item, where they will work in pairs to present a radio news report.

Background work

- Bring in some copies of local or national newspapers where there are articles about accidents that may have happened. See below for some examples.
- Find some radio news clips of incidents reported.

Lesson ideas

Task one – reading and class discussion

Pick out a few newspaper articles – perhaps about the same incident, but from different styles of newspaper.

- Identify and discuss the five fundamental 'W' questions that a news report tries to answer: *Who? What? Where? When?* and *Why?*
- Discuss language used and how the information is presented. Is it factual or is it based on people's opinions? Look at use of imagery and headlines.
- Consider the way different communication modes are used by different media, and with what impact or effect.
- Pick out what may be of interest to the public and what may be of interest to the reader.

Task two – written

Imagine you are a reporter for your local newspaper. You are in town one day and you witness an accident. You are first on scene and call for an ambulance. Your boss at the newspaper asks you to write an article about what happened, and what the ambulance service did when they arrived on scene.

Task three – aural

Play a number of radio news reports to the class. Discuss as a class about the type of information they talk about. Pick out key facts and list the types of information that may be expected in a radio news report eg: date, time, place of accident, number of people involved.

Task four – written and role play

Imagine you are a radio news presenter and have been asked to report on an accident in the local area. Working in pairs, write a short radio script as if you are two news presenters. Practice the role play and present to the class.

Material to support and expand the lesson plan

This lesson plan is only intended to give some basic ideas of how you can incorporate the emergency services into a literacy task.

Full information about how you supplement this task is on the national strategies website.

<http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/primary/primaryframework/literacy/planning/Year6/Nonfiction/unit2/>

Example news stories

Below are a few links to major news stories in the London area – reported from different media sources.

Tower Bridge lift fall:

The BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8044164.stm>

The Sun: <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/2422975/16-injured-after-Tower-Bridge-lift-plummets.html>

The Daily Mail: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1180536/Tower-Bridge-remain-closed-indefinitely-injured-lift-plunge-terror.html>

The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/may/11/tower-bridge-tourists-lift-emergency-services>

The Telegraph: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5309167/Tower-Bridge-lift-fall-leaves-six-people-injured.html>

Fire at a block of flats in Peckham:

The Sun <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/2747091/Huge-blaze-rips-through-London-flats.html>

The Daily Mail: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1231078/Peckham-Hundreds-people-evacuated-blaze-envelops-blocks-flats.html>

The Telegraph: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/6658809/Peckham-fire-150-people-abandon-homes-as-building-site-blaze-spreads.html>

The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/feedarticle/8828096>