

Comparison of News Stories

A TWINS PROJECT PLAN

Aim

This project aims to assist pupils to widen their awareness of the presentation of news in the print media and compare the ways these stories are presented in their TWIN School's country.

They will learn about the ways news stories can be presented to keep the reader interested as well as unconsciously affecting the reader's perception of a situation. These skills can enable participants to be aware of the sometimes manipulative and persuasive journalism sometimes used in print media and gain a more objective view of the world. It is recommended for students aged 15 – 17 years.

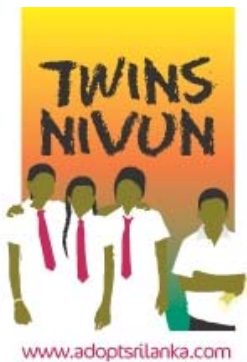
General Overview

The media now influences many aspects of young people's lives and plays a big role in their perception of the world and various global issues. This project allows students to explore particular global events or issues that are being reported in both TWIN schools.

Students collect articles from various newspapers and analyse things such as the placement of the article, the headline used, the focus of the article and whether it is objective or seems to push a certain agenda. Students may discover some interesting findings on the presentation of world events or issues, what subject areas have been highlighted or whether they are even mentioned at all!

Learning Outcomes

- About legal and censorship issues regarding the print media in different countries
- How to set up, compare and evaluate objective reporting features (use of headlines, omitting facts, tone and language used, use of photographs, impact on audience etc.).
- About sharing tasks and working in teams.
- About presenting their results as a team.
- About different ways of presenting news.
- About the importance placed on different events around the globe in different countries



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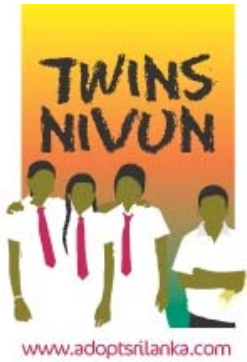
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Topics could include:

- Homelessness
- Crime Rates
- Conflicts in the World
- Natural Disasters
- Sporting Events
- Environment Issues
- Child Labour
- Work Rights

Method

- A TWIN School from Sri Lanka and their Twin School agree to share this project.
- The TWINS Coordinators set a deadline when the project will be completed and exchanged.
- The TWINS Coordinators select one (or more) global issue that they know regularly appears in local newspapers.
- The TWINS Coordinators set a time frame for collecting articles on this topic
- Students are asked to gather (English medium) newspaper articles and articles from other publications on the selected topic (they can ask family and friends to help)
- As a class the collected articles are sorted and collated –a copy of each article is exchanged with the TWIN school abroad.
- Once both sets of articles have been received they are copied for small groups.
- The small groups of students read the articles and analyse the information based on a set of questions developed and provided by the teacher. Examples of the types of questions that could be useful can be found below.
- Once the analysis is written students photocopy their work and send the original to their TWIN school.
- When the TWIN School's package arrives the class spends time comparing the work and analyse the similarities and difference in both counties.



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Example Questions

- Did the headline grab your attention? Is it relevant to the article? Is it alarmist or an exaggeration?
- What style of writing has been used to get your attention? Is it realistic and objective or has sensationalism been used?
- Has the author remained topic focussed?
- Is the article objective or subjective?
- How do different writers or publications portray the situation differently? Why do you think this is?
- How do you think this article could affect public opinion?
- How do the articles compare in each country? What influences these differences?
- Has censorship affected this article?
- How does the presentation of the issue been addressed in each publication?