

Lesson Blueprints: Current Events

Lesson Title: Same Story/Different Sources

Grade Level: Elementary School

Note: Students should have some experience with current events and news sources before working on this activity.

Project and Purpose

Students use graphic organizers to compare/contrast how different news sources report the same subject.

Essential Question

How do different news sources report the same subject?

Materials

- News resources: newspapers, magazines, newsletters, radio/television news transcripts or recordings, online news sources; have copies of the examples you will use for each student OR create slides of the material to display for class.
- CHOICE:
 - Copies of articles covering the same story (this can be pairs or small groupings of same stories by different sources).
 - Have students bring in articles to use in the exercise.
- Same Story/Different Sources chart

Introduction

1. Begin a discussion about how students learn about the news.
 - What are their sources? Where do they find their news?
 - How does a radio report of a news story differ from a newspaper report?
 - Why do they need to differ?
 - Why do we need different kinds of source?
2. Explain that in this session, students will compare how different sources report the same news story.

Lesson Blueprints: Current Events

Worksheet: Same Story/Different Sources

Grade Level: Elementary School

Student _____

Use the graphic organizer below to compare/contrast the coverage of the same story by two different news sources.

Main idea of story _____

News Source #1 _____

News Source #2 _____

Element of News Story	Same	Different
Headline/Title		
Facts		
Fairness/Balance (gives time to both sides of an issue)		
Attributes sources (gives names, titles, background of all people or organizations who contributed information to the newstory)		
Other		
Other		
Other		