

Lesson Plan

Gathering Information

Project Summary

We will discover how journalists gather information and the types of sources they use when reporting the news. We will also discover the importance of finding the right sources, avoiding sources that could lead reporters astray, and focusing on finding credible sources. In order to report on the news, journalists must have news to report. We will learn how quality journalists find information and use those techniques to find information of our own.

- Total Lesson Time: 1-2 Hours
- Standards: STN B1.1, STN B1.2, STN B1.3, STN B1.4, STN B1.5
- Subject/Pathway/Industry
 - A/V Technology & Film Career Pathway (CTE)
 - Broadcast Journalism

Performance Objectives

1. Identify the difference between primary and secondary sources
2. Discuss the importance of gathering credible information
3. Explain the signs of sources that are not credible
4. Identify ways to gather information
5. Discuss ways to gather different types of information
6. Explain how journalists use the information they gather
7. Describe investigative journalism

Project Outline

Part One

You have been asked to write a story on the upcoming school dance. Write at least 10 questions you want answered while conducting your research. Include questions you could

ask during an interview. Do not just ask the basic questions such as, "When and where will the dance be held?" Try to think of unique questions; for example, "Why is this dance such a big deal?"

Part Two

A student claims that the school cafeteria regularly serves leftovers to students instead of making new food each day. Your editor assigns you to investigate. Write out a plan for finding information. In your plan, include the sources you will use, how you will gather information, and what obstacles you might run into as you research your story.

Resources & Equipment

1. Computer
2. Microsoft Word or another word processing software

Industry Testimony

"Great journalism will always attract readers. The words, pictures, and graphics that are the stuff of journalism have to be brilliantly packaged; they must feed the mind and move the heart."

- Rupert Murdoch, American Media Mogul

Assessment

Excellent: Most interview questions are thorough and open-ended. Unique questions, not just basic fact-gathering. Questions provoke interesting details and deeper meaning.

Good: Some good questions, but provide only basic information and single word replies. Need to write deeper, open-ended questions to discover new information.

Fair: Most questions are not open-ended and are basic. Some of them are not appropriate for a reporter to ask. Reconsider some of the questions you have prepared for this audience.

Contact

Shared by Beth Kennedy

Email: beth_kennedy@me.com