How Reporters' Report Events

Print and television news reporters make multiple decisions about how they report the events they are covering, including who to interview, which perspective to present, which camera angles to use for capturing footage, and which audio to record. These decisions structure how viewers think about the causes and consequences of events.

Historian Rick Perlstein (2020) described how, during the beginning of the Iran Hostage Crisis in 1979, ABC News vaulted to the top of the TV news show ratings with its late night broadcasts of "America Held Hostage: The Crisis in Iran" (the show that would soon be renamed Nightline). The network focused on showing images of a burning American flag, embassy employees in blindfolds, Uncle Sam hanged in effigy, and increasingly more people watched the broadcast. Perlstein (2020) noted, "the images slotted effortlessly into the long-gathering narrative of American malaise, humiliation, and failed leadership" (p. 649) - themes Ronald Reagan would capitalize on during his successful 1980 Presidential campaign.
In the following activities, you will examine reporters' differences in coverage of the 2016 Hong Kong Protests and then you will act as a reporter and create or remix the news.

**Activity 1: Evaluate How Reporters Covered the 2016 Hong Kong Protests**

Just as the accounts from Marie Colvin, Nellie Bly, and other war correspondents shaped public opinion during the past, photos and videos taken by reporters from today's conflict zones can have a huge influence over how people view and understand those events.

- Below are the links to two videos taken by two different correspondents covering the same event at the same time - the
Hong Kong Protests in 2016:
  ○ Hong Kong Protests 1
  ○ Hong Kong Protests 2

- After watching the two videos, conduct a critical media literacy analysis using the prompts from the Teacher and Student Guide to Analyzing News and Newspapers.
- Then, consider the following prompts:
  ◦ What is the primary message that each reporter is trying to communicate to the audience about the event?
  ◦ If the goal of a correspondent is to inform the public about an event, which of these correspondents do you think accomplished that goal better? Why?
- Report your findings in a Snapchat or TikTok video, presentation, blog, song, or podcast.

"Hong Kong protest Admiralty Centre" by Citobun is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0
Activity 2: Report an Event From a Different Perspective

- Select a recent local, national, or international news event.
- Find news clips about this event on YouTube.
- **Remix these clips** (screen record the clips; add sound/narration/images) to **present a different perspective of the event**.
  - Screenrecording:
    - If you have a Mac computer, use this shortcut.
    - If you have access to Quicktime, here's how to screenrecord using Quicktime.
    - Otherwise, use a web-based screenrecording tool such as Screencastify, Screencast-o-Matic, or Loom.
- After completing the remix, explain the reactions you sought to create through your selection of images, audio, and video.

Additional Resources

- Seven standards of quality journalism
- Allsides.com roundup of top weekly stories with articles from across the political spectrum

Connecting to the eBook

*Building Democracy for All: Writing the News: Different Formats and Their Functions*

Connecting to the Standards

- Massachusetts Civics & Government Standards
  - Explain the different functions of news articles,
editorials, editorial cartoons, and “op-ed”
commentaries. (Massachusetts Curriculum Framework
for History and Social Studies) [8.T7.3]

- **ISTE Standards**
  - Digital Citizen
    - 2c: Students demonstrate an understanding of and
      respect for the rights and obligations of using and
      sharing intellectual property.
  - Knowledge Constructor
    - 3b: Students evaluate the accuracy, perspective,
      credibility and relevance of information, media,
      data, or other resources.
    - 3d: Students build knowledge by actively
      exploring real-world issues and problems,
      developing ideas and theories and pursuing
      answers and solutions.
  - Creative Communicator
    - 6a: Students choose the appropriate platforms and
      tools for meeting the desired objectives of their
      creation or communication.
    - 6b: Students create original works or responsibly
      repurpose or remix digital resources into new
      creations.
    - 6d: Students publish or present content that
      customizes the message and medium for the
      intended audiences.

- **DLCS Standards**
  - Ethics and Laws (CAS.b)
  - Interpersonal and Societal Impact (CAS.c)
  - Digital Tools (DTC.a)
  - Collaboration and Communication (DTC.b)
  - Research (DTC.c)

- **English Language Arts > History/Social Studies Common Core
  Standards**
  - CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1
○ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5
○ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.6
○ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7
○ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.8
○ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1
○ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.6
○ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1
○ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.6
○ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7
○ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.8
[https://edtechbooks.org/mediaandciviclearning](https://edtechbooks.org/mediaandciviclearning)