

Activity

Episode 7
18th March 2014

Rookie Reporter

Key Learning

Students will learn more about how news stories and programs are made and create their own news report for children.

The Australian Curriculum

English/Literacy/Texts in Context

Compare texts including media texts that represent ideas and events in different ways, explaining the effects of the different approaches Year 6 ([ACELY1708](#))

English/Language/Language for interaction

Understand the uses of objective and subjective language and bias Year 6 ([ACELA1517](#))

Activities

Your favourite story

Students choose their favourite story from this week's show then ask them to reflect on the following questions:

- Summarise the story in two sentences.
- Why did you choose the story?
- Describe the main issue or message in the story.
- Why do you think children would be interested in the story?
- What do you think the producers/reporters want kids to know about the topic/issue?
- What changes would you made to the story? Consider the words, pictures, music and graphics. Explain why you would make the changes

Working in pairs, students discuss their responses to the questions.

Students can then choose one of the following options to take the investigation further:

- Write a follow up news report/update that gives new information about the issue/story. It needs to explain how the issue has been resolved or has changed.
- Create another version of the BtN story that includes the changes you would make. Storyboard the new version including graphics and music details. The following website has a storyboarding tool <http://kidsvid.4teachers.org/scripting.shtml>

Encourage students to present their work to the class in an interesting way.

Create your own rundown

Students will be creating their own rundown for a kids' news program like Behind the News does each week. Discuss with students who they think make the decisions about what stories will be included on the program (Producer, Executive Producer, Journalist) and what things might influence their decisions about what should be included. Ask students to watch Behind the Scenes on the BtN website <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/page/page-behindbtn.html> to find out more about how the show is made.

Ask students to analyse the different aspects of the program that are put together to make Behind the News.

- How many stories in the show each week?
- Quiz questions
- The Wire and the Score
- Online poll question (linked to a story)

The task for students is to create a rundown for the show. The transcripts in the teachers section of the website <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/teachers.htm> and viewing previous episodes of BtN, will give students a sense of how the show is structured. Discuss with students the different types of stories covered in each show. Working in small groups, students choose five news stories to include in their run down. The first two or three stories should be 'harder stories' and the others are usually softer, human interest stories.

Story	Why you chose it
Lead story	
Story 2	
Story 3	
Story 4	
Story 5	

Other information that students will need to include in their run down includes:

- A brief summary of each story (2 or 3 sentences)
- 2 quiz questions and answers
- Information that will be covered in The Wire and The Score
- An online poll question that is linked to a story

Each group presents their run down for their kids' news program to the rest of the class, giving reasons for their selection.

Encourage students to give constructive feedback about their choices.

Become a Rookie Reporter

Students create their own news report and submit it to BtN. The **Rookie Training** section on the website <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/rookie-training.htm> gives students some great tips for making their own news story. Check out some of our rookie reporter stories from kids around Australia and the world for inspiration!

Consider using BtN's media assets (video and audio files) to create their news report. These include opening titles, closing titles, blank keyframe and theme music. Students can find these assets on the *ROOKIE REPORTER* page on the BtN website. Students can submit their reports to BtN – just click on the Submit Report button to get in contact with a staff member from BtN.



Further Investigation

Research and compare two different news programs/services for kids (print, online or television). How are they similar and different?

Related Research Links

Behind the News – Stories

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/stories.htm>

Behind the News – Rookie Reporters

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/rookie.htm>

CBBC Newsround - News

<http://www.bbc.com/newsround/news/>