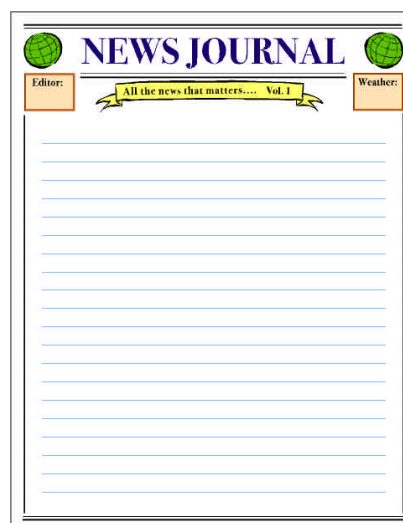


Point of View: Recognizing Bias in the News

Goals

- To recognize bias in news reporting
- To write a news article that presents a biased point of view
- To compare different news reports of the same event and identify the bias each represents



Overview: Students read and discuss a controversial subject, write news reports from opposing points of view, and then share and compare their news articles.

Materials

- Print or electronic resources on a controversial subject
- Copies of "Point of View" template

Directions

1. As a class, choose a controversial topic and read two or more articles written from different points of view. Encourage debate and help students articulate opposing points of view.
2. Let students choose a point of view or assign one. Then ask individual students or small teams to write a biased news report that tells the story from their point of view. Have students write their final drafts on the "Point of View" template.
3. Schedule a "newscast" in which students read their reports to the class. After each report, ask the class to identify the bias. Do all the reports tell the same story? Does one get a different impression depending on which news report he or she hears? Should news reporters be unbiased, or is it okay to tell the story from a biased point of view?

Stationery Studio Extension

- Have students print stationery using the business letter layout and write a letter to the editor expressing an opinion on a topic of importance to them. (See "Letter to Editor" activity.)