



The right formula

Taking driving into the classroom

Communications – Theme 11: The media

Activity 11c

Make the news

News preparation is very important for the media and is the result of a team effort.

Split into different news teams. You will be working for a local weekly newspaper.

Each team must have:

- an editor (responsible for overall content and style of the newspaper)
- a news editor (responsible for the news section)
- a features editor (for extensive coverage items)
- a pictures editor (selecting and allocating appropriate photographs)
- one or more researchers
- one or more reporters
- one or more writers
- a photographer.

Your task is to prepare next week's edition – front page and one more page.

You need to decide on:

- what will be the balance between national news (with a local implication if possible) and local news
- what will be the main front page news item (allow flexibility for last minute news items)
- what other news items to include
- which item would be more suitable to become a feature
- what is your overall deadline and what are the critical stages.

Class organisation

Group work



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Considerations:

- when you report on items featured in the national press, or on other local press, make sure you use several sources to try to get a balanced point of view
- do not directly copy any item – that would be copyright infringement and your paper could be sued
- all the material must be clearly typed before it is given to production
- examine each item closely to make sure it balances the right to a free press with an individual's right to privacy.

Suggestions:

- you can source and edit national news from the daily press
- it is a good idea to create your own local news and features – decide on what topics to cover, then task the reporter(s) and the photographer to collect material for each
- the feature can be on an important local issue that made the news recently or on a national issue examining it from a local point of view.

Extension

If time and resources allow, create a 'dummy' newspaper using your material for the front page and one inside page.