

ACTIVITY SIX: GATHERING NEWS QUIZ

This multiple-choice quiz is designed to test your knowledge of how newsgathering works.

It also provides real-life scenarios to prompt discussions about the issues that can arise during the process of research and interviewing.

See how much you know about gathering the news.

Interviews**Q) A closed question...**

- 1) Prompts "Yes" or "No" answers.
- 2) Encourages people to give detailed answers.
- 3) Works well in radio interviews.

Interviews~**Q) Encouraging your interviewees to include your question in their answer is useful because...**

- 1) It gives you time to think of your next question.
- 2) It makes it easier to leave out your questions when you are compiling the report.
- 3) People like giving long answers.

News values**Q) If you present stories fairly and without bias, you could be described as being...**

- 1) Impartial
- 2) Incredible
- 3) Inferior

Interviews**Q) You've asked someone if you can interview them on camera. They say yes - but only if you give them a list of your questions first. What should you do?**

- 1) Send them the questions you are going to ask.
- 2) Refuse to tell them anything.
- 3) Tell them the topics you are going to be asking about.

Research**Q) You find a website that has some useful information you want to use in your report. What should you do?**

- 1) Try to memorise the information.
- 2) Write down the information you want in your notebook.
- 3) Take notes and bookmark the webpage for later.

Fact and opinion**Q) A fact is...**

- 1) A statement made by someone important.
- 2) A statement based on a belief.
- 3) A statement that is true and can be backed up with evidence.

News values

Q) What word best describes a news report that only gives a one sided view of a story?

- 1) Biased
- 2) Balanced
- 3) Boring

Staying safe

Q) You've been researching a story online and are about to take a lunchbreak. What should you do before you leave?

- 1) Load up your editing software ready to use when you get back.
- 2) Make sure you've logged off your computer.
- 3) Write down a list of things to do after lunch.

Answers to the quiz on the next page...

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ:

See how much you know about gathering the news. Correct answers are underlined and in italics.

Interviews

Q) A closed question...

- 1) Prompts "Yes" or "No" answers.
- 2) Encourages people to give detailed answers.
- 3) Works well in radio interviews.

Closed questions prompt "Yes" or "No" answers which might be dull for your audience. Try asking open questions, which often begin with words beginning with W: what, who, where, when, why – and one which doesn't begin with W: how.

Interviews

Q) Encouraging your interviewees to include your question in their answer is useful because...

- 1) It gives you time to think of your next question.
- 2) It makes it easier to leave out your questions when you are compiling the report.
- 3) People like giving long answers.

It makes it easier to leave out your questions when you are compiling the report. So "I decided to run the marathon because I wanted a challenge" is a more useful answer than "Because I wanted a challenge." Ask interviewees if they can reference the question, so their answer can "stand alone".

News values

Q) If you present stories fairly and without bias, you could be described as being...

- 1) Impartial
- 2) Incredible
- 3) Inferior

Being fair and unbiased means you can be described as impartial. Impartiality requires you to seek out and weigh the relevant arguments on any issue and to present them fairly without letting your personal views affect what you say. Being impartial helps your audience trust what you tell them.

Interviews

Q) You've asked someone if you can interview them on camera. They say yes - but only if you give them a list of your questions first. What should you do?

- 1) Send them the questions you are going to ask.
- 2) Refuse to tell them anything.
- 3) Tell them the topics you are going to be asking about.

You should tell them the topics you are going to ask about but avoid sending them a list of questions. You don't want them to prepare all their answers in advance as a) they sound unnatural and b) you are more likely to get to the truth when your guests are answering spontaneously.

Research

Q) You find a website that has some useful information you want to use in your report. What should you do?

- 1) Try to memorise the information.
- 2) Write down the information you want in your notebook.
- 3) Take notes and bookmark the webpage for later.

Taking notes in your notebook is good but it is even better to take notes and bookmark the webpage. Your editor may ask for more information about the source and if you've got it bookmarked, you can easily refer back to it.

Fact and opinion

Q) A fact is...

- 1) A statement made by someone important.
- 2) A statement based on a belief.
- 3) A statement that is true and can be backed up with evidence.

A fact is a statement that is true and can be backed up with evidence. When you are reporting, remember to make it clear if something is a fact or if you are reporting someone's opinion.

News values

Q) What word best describes a news report that only gives a one sided view of a story?

- 1) Biased
- 2) Balanced
- 3) Boring

A one-sided story is biased. Reporting just one side of a story means the audience aren't getting all the facts. Try to make sure your stories are balanced and look for alternative views.

Staying safe

Q) You've been researching a story online and are about to take a lunchbreak. What should you do before you leave?

- 1) Load up your editing software ready to use when you get back.
- 2) Make sure you've logged off your computer.
- 3) Write down a list of things to do after lunch.

You should make sure you've logged off your computer. That way, people won't be able to use your accounts or look at any personal information you may have left behind.

Your Score:

0 – 2 Keep working at it

3 – 5 Good but could be better

6 – 8 Well done!