

TRANSCRIPT OF HUW EDWARDS VIDEO (ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/young-reporter/lesson-3-gathering-news/zqcm8hv>

Hello again.

Once a BBC journalist has found a news story – they’ll check it out carefully – and gather together all the elements to make a report. We call that news-gathering.

You can start by gathering the facts.

And an easy way to do this is to remember the 5 W’s:

- WHAT happened?
- WHO was involved?
- WHERE did it take place?
- WHEN did it happen?
- and, WHY did it happen?

And here’s something that doesn’t start with a ‘W’ – but it’s vital – don’t forget to ask HOW?

Facts are the building blocks of news so gather your own facts, figures and statistics and check them carefully. That way you won’t go far wrong.

You will be able to gather some more, and possibly exclusive, facts by interviewing people who have been affected, or who have a particular knowledge of the subject.

A BBC journalist will make sure they have as much background information as possible before they set out to interview anyone.

And you should too. You need to be well-informed, do your homework, so you can ask the right questions and challenge your interviewees if they try to avoid your questions.

Good interviews need good planning, so remember the five W’s, and How, when preparing your questions. Interviews are also a good chance to gather opinions.

But make sure you know the difference between fact and opinion.

A fact is beyond dispute – it’s something that’s established – but an opinion is someone’s view and it isn’t guaranteed to be true.

When you include an opinion in your report you must try to balance it with an argument against, or an alternative view. Getting that balance is important.

At the BBC, we refer to this as being impartial – and impartiality is one of our basic values. It’s about being objective and not taking sides. Leave it to the audience to decide what to think.

There’s much more information on all of this in our master classes. So go out, gather your news and have fun.