

Activity 1.a	Activity 1.b	Activity 1.c	Activity 2.a
Activity 2.b	Activity 3.a	Activity 3.b	Activity 3.c
Activity 4	Activity 5	Activity 6	

Tracking the truth



NOTE: This activity works best as a follow-up to 'Analysing Images'.

Aim

- To provide an opportunity for students to identify and critically discern causes and consequences of actions or events, the differences between these and the ways in which they are linked.

Materials

You need 4 topical articles or comment pieces for this activity. Identify 4 reports of current global or development issues which you deem to be suitable for your class. We recommend looking at the following websites for pieces:

- The Guardian website has many different relevant sections, including World News, Development, Environment, and so on.
- Al Jazeera.
- The New York Times.

Steps

- Organise students in small groups around tables.
- Explain that each group is a 'Triple T Team', ie, Tracking The Truth!
- Photocopies of the media reports are placed facedown on the tables and numbered 1 to 4.
- In turn, each group chooses a report.
- The groups task is to establish the truth or otherwise of the reports given and to identify any possible bias. For example, they should identify facts, opinions, speculations, feelings and so on.
- They have to come up with appropriate lines of enquiry and identify where and how these are best followed.
- Some pointers may be given. For example:
 - Who is the author of the report?
 - From where was it sourced?

- Is it from a newspaper? What kind of newspaper?
- Is it from a website? How do we know if we can trust the website?
- For whom was it written?
- When was it written?
- What is the perspective of the writer?
- Are there images accompanying it?
- How would you describe the language? What is the tone?
- Is it mainly factual or opinion?
And so on...

Conclusion

- Each small group reports back, explain their answers to the questions, and anything else that they discussed.
- They can be respectfully questioned by the other students.
- Record the findings of this activity on the board.

Note: The findings may deal specifically with the reports examined but will also possibly include broader media reporting. This helps to provide a filter or lens through which media reports might be observed.



Journal Work

Ask the students to complete the following sentences in their journals.

- At the start of today's class I thought...
- Now I think...
- I was surprised by...
- The main thing I will take away from today is...