

Unit Guide

Making and Breaking the News: Interpreting the News Using Various Media

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This 15 day 90 minute block-scheduled curriculum unit was created for advanced level English Language Learners from grades nine through twelve. The purpose of the unit is to encourage students to subjectively consider and critically question the source of news and information, and thereby promote further exploration via varying news media sources in order to create a clearer picture of current news events. The unit proposes methods for teaching students to be more skeptical and analytical readers and watchers of the news. The unit will follow the learning focused format and will be presented in four lessons: 1) What is News; 2) Television News, 3) Newspapers and 4) the Internet. The students will acquire the materials through various types of activities including jigsaw learning, Socratic seminar, computer lab investigation, and creative presentations incorporating the use of technology. In addition, students will employ language learning strategies that will encourage language acquisition along with content learning. It is hoped that the students will transfer these skills not only to future learning in other academic disciplines, but will also apply these skills to interpreting current events beyond the high school setting.