

Student check list

Analysing media reports

Context

1. Where and when was this report (first) published?
2. Who wrote the report?

Content

3. Write down the title or headline, and any subheadings or captions. Describe any photographs or graphics used in the report.
4. Summarise the first paragraph of the report.
5. What is the topic of the report?
6. What other news items, issues or subjects does the report relate to?

Point of view

7. Are there any quotes used in the report? If so, who is quoted, what and how much do they say, and in what order are the quotes arranged?
8. Are different points of view presented? Are there any points of view which are not represented in the report? Is any one point of view more prominent or more favourably represented than others?

Language

9. Compare the way in which different individuals and groups of people have been identified or labelled in the report. Analyse the noun phrases used to refer to different people or groups.
10. Consider the denotations and connotations of the verbs, adjectives, adverbs and descriptive phrases and clauses which are associated with various individuals and groups of people in the report.

Graphics

11. What aspects of the report do the photos and/or diagrams illustrate?
12. How do the images and graphics relate to each other?
13. What messages do these images convey to the reader or the viewer?

Layout

14. Where is the report situated in terms of the total publication or program? With what news or other items is it juxtaposed?
15. How are the various elements within the report arranged? What draws the reader's or viewer's attention to the report?

Discussion and further research

16. Is there evidence of any racial bias or stereotyping in the report?
17. How was this event reported by other news sources?