

TruthLens Lesson Plan: Analyzing Media Framing

Lesson Overview

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Key Stage/Grade: KS4-5 / Grades 9-12

Subject Areas: Media Literacy, English, Politics, Citizenship, EPQ

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify patterns in how different sources frame the same event
- Recognize emotional and persuasive language techniques
- Analyze sourcing and attribution patterns
- Compare and contrast media presentations without making truth claims

Materials Needed

- Access to TruthLens (truthlens.uk)
- Two news articles on the same event from different sources
- Student annotation worksheets (optional)
- Projection screen for whole-class analysis

Lesson Structure

1. Introduction (5-10 minutes)

- Ask students: "How might different news sources describe the same event?"
- Explain that we'll analyze patterns in framing, not judge truth or bias
- Introduce TruthLens as a tool that surfaces signals and patterns

2. Guided Analysis (20-30 minutes)

Step 1: Choose two articles on the same recent news event

Step 2: Run each article through TruthLens Scanner

Step 3: Use Comparison Mode to view side-by-side analysis

Step 4: Guide students to identify:

- Language differences (emotional vs. neutral)
- What each source emphasizes or omits
- Sourcing and attribution patterns
- Framing techniques

3. Class Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Discussion prompts:

- "What patterns did you notice in how each source framed the story?"
- "How might these language choices affect how readers understand the event?"
- "What questions would you ask to understand the full story?"
- "Why might different outlets frame the same event differently?"

4. Reflection & Extension (5-10 minutes)

- Students write a brief reflection on what they learned about media framing
- Extension: Students find their own pair of articles to compare for homework

Assessment Criteria

- Can identify specific language patterns and framing techniques
- Articulates differences in presentation without making truth claims
- Asks thoughtful questions about sourcing and evidence
- Shows understanding that framing shapes meaning

Differentiation

For advanced learners: Ask students to analyze three or more sources and identify common framing patterns across outlets.

For emerging learners: Provide a guided worksheet with specific language patterns to look for (emotional words, passive voice, etc.).

Teacher Notes

- Emphasize that TruthLens shows patterns, not truth or falsity
- Encourage students to form their own judgments based on the evidence
- Use politically neutral topics when possible to reduce emotional reactions
- First 3 scans are free without account creation for easy student access

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