

Balanced reporting

Making sure news tells all sides of a story

What do we mean when we say 'balanced reporting'?

Why is this important?



These are some of the questions that will be discussed in this lesson.

Clip art via Clip Safari

School bans mobile phones



What might students involved think about this?

Photos left to right:

Sam Balye via Unsplash

Oscar Nord via Unsplash

School bans mobile phones



What might teachers think about this?

Photo: Christina @ wocintechchat.com via Unsplash

School bans mobile phones



What might parents think about this?

Do you think all students/ teachers/ parents will think the same?

Why would it be important to include as many different viewpoints as possible in a news report of this story?

Photo: Christina @ wocintechchat.com via Unsplash

Is it balanced? Whose view does it show?

News.wise Behind the Headlines

Protestors remove slave holder statue

Protestors at an anti-racism demonstration pulled down a statue of Edward Colston in Bristol yesterday because of his involvement in the slave trade.

Joel, a protestor, said: "Things need to change. We should not have statues in city centres of people who enslaved thousands of black men, women and children."

Bristol's mayor commented: "There's a lot of excitement among many people that the statue has been pulled down."



The statue of Edward Colston on Colston Avenue in Bristol



Protestors dumping the statue in Bristol Harbour

Read report 1 (also on this slide). Use the glossary sheet to support complex language. Verbally summarise the key events of the story to check for understanding.

- *Is it balanced? Whose viewpoint does it share?*
- *Whose viewpoints are missing (eg police, the people who pulled the statue down, other members of the public)?*

Is it balanced? Whose view does it show?

News.wise Behind the Headlines

Angry protestors destroy historic statue

Protestors at an anti-racism demonstration pulled down a statue of Edward Colston in Bristol yesterday due to his involvement in the slave trade. Photos and videos show demonstrators, packed closely together - despite social distancing guidelines - pulling the statue down with ropes before cheering and dancing around it.

Adam, a local shop owner, said: "Pulling down statues doesn't help end racism. It's just mindless criminal damage." Priti Patel, home secretary, described the act as "utterly disgraceful".



Photo: Mr Standfast/Alan J

The statue of Edward Colston on Colston Avenue in Bristol



Photo: Ben Birchall/PA

Protestors dumped the statue in Bristol Harbour.

Read report 2 (also on this slide). Use the glossary sheet to support complex language.

Compare this report with report 1.

- *Whose viewpoint does this report share?*
- *What does the journalist want you to feel or think about this news story?*

Can you write a balanced report?

Now it's your turn.

Can you write a balanced news report about the Edward Colston statue story?



Students write a one-minute balanced news report on this story, including two quotes - choose one from report 1 and one from report 2 to demonstrate different viewpoints. If students have already completed the radio broadcast activity from the fact or opinion activity they may like to add the quotes into their existing radio script.

What have you learnt?

1. In order for a story to be balanced, what do you think it needs to include?
2. Why do you think it's important for reporting to be balanced?



- *What could you do if you don't think you've been given all the sides of the story in a news report?*

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