

Environmental News Session Guide

Session Outline

Description

This session will present learners with three news articles from three different sources, all related to an aspect of the environment. Each article has a distinctive writing style, which learners might be able to distinguish or analyse. The session will aim to provide an opportunity for learners to read, analyse, summarise and reflect on three pieces of writing.

Session Objectives

The objectives of this session are to:

- Develop students' reading comprehension.
- Raise awareness of environmental issues.
- Encourage students to keep informed with the news.
- Reflect on how articles might have a special meaning to them and their community, either literally or in their content.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the session student will have:

- Read three news articles.
- Extracted and summarised key points or comparison points between them.
- Written a personal reflection on an aspect of one or more articles.

Areas involved

- Language
 - Reading
 - Writing
- Citizenship
 - Social Responsibility
- Environment
 - Hygiene and conservation
 - Environmental conservation



Reading News Articles

Objectives

To read and understand three news articles

Expected Outcomes

Students will read three articles and start thinking about the key points they are making and potentially comparing the writing styles.

Teaching Instructions

- Provide articles and give time for learners to read them, keeping in mind the key points the articles are trying to convey and reflect on the communication strategies and potential target readers of the articles.
- Learners will take different lengths of time to read so after some time you can introduce the second task to be done after the first is finished, emphasising that learners should take their time to read carefully.

Activity

Read the following three articles. While reading you should keep in mind the key points the articles are trying to convey and reflect on the writing styles and potential target readers of the articles.

1. [Hotelier's love for trees turns desert into spectacular scenery](#)
2. [Charcoal burning ends in Naivasha's Eburru forest](#)
3. [Butterflies hatch cash for Coast women](#)

Identifying Key Points

Objectives

- To be able to identify the key points of news articles.
- To provide constructive feedback on peers' conclusions.

Expected outcomes

By the end of this activity, learners should have considered the articles, analysed what the key messages are and potentially distinguish similarities and differences in the way they are written.

Teaching Instructions/Activity

- Identify the key points from what you read. You might want to concentrate on a single article or consider two or even all three of them. You can focus on the content or message they are proposing, or on the way they are written.
- Once you have done this, discuss with a partner what you both found and provide constructive criticism, focusing on what you think is good from each other's conclusions and what could potentially be improved.

Summarising Key Points

Objectives

- To be able to put their thoughts in writing.
- To be able to write coherent paragraphs related to their reading.
- To act on feedback provided by their peers.

Expected Outcomes

Students will have to write three paragraphs that summarise the key points identified in the previous activity.

Teacher Instructions/Activity

- After considering the feedback given by your partner, write a paragraph summarising each key point you identified, or any other key point that might have arisen from your discussion. If you need to refer back to the articles you can do so.

Personal Reflection

Objectives

- To encourage learners to reflect on what the articles might mean to them.



Expected Outcomes

Learners will have to write a reflective paragraph demonstrating how one or more of the articles relates to them and their personal contexts or personal writing style.

Teacher Instructions/Activity

Write a short reflective text of no more than 200 words outlining how one or more of the articles relates to you or someone you know in terms of content, messages they are conveying, the way they are telling the different stories, the way they are written or any other aspect of interest.

