

# Lesson Three: Citizenship (Exploring Reporting)

## Lesson plan (NB: This can also be used as an English lesson)

### Learning objectives

By the end of the lesson students will:

- Know that many factors can affect how news is reported.
- Understand why different people and organisations report news differently.
- Be able to identify some bias in news reporting, and compare and contrast news reporting on nuclear weapons in 1945 and today.

### Overview

Students will be divided into groups of approximately five. They will use what they have learnt in the previous two lessons to produce a radio or televised news report about the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They will be given time to devise and rehearse their reports, and will then deliver their report to the class.

### Equipment needed

You will need:

- PowerPoint downloadable from [www.cnduk.org/education](http://www.cnduk.org/education)
- 10 sheets with details of news outlets (pp 78-82)
- The witness sheets from Lesson Two
- Space for groups to rehearse their reports

### Starter (10-15 minutes)

- If you did Lesson Two, explain to the students that *this* lesson will build on the understanding of concepts such as law and justice, rights and democracy that they developed in Lesson Two.
- Ask them if they know what 'free press' means. Look (again) at the headlines of the newspapers from Lesson One. Ask if you can infer much about bias just from reading these headlines.
- Look at some examples of recent news headlines on nuclear weapons, so they can begin to compare and contrast with reporting on the issue today.

### News reports (35 minutes)

- Divide the class into groups of approximately five. Each group should have a separate section of the classroom in which to rehearse.
- Display the 'Your Task' slide on PowerPoint.
- Each group will be given a sheet with the details of the news channel they will be reporting for, and some key information. You may want to make smaller groups, so that all 10 cards can be used.
- Students must then decide on the characters they want to include in their report and who will play each character. These can be characters from the trial or they can make up their own.
- They will need to decide what sort of questions will be asked, what information will be given, what kind of language they will use, etc.
- They have 15 mins to rehearse. Their reports should last no more than 2 mins.
- Each group will then present their report to the rest of the class (make sure they start with the name and time period of their news programme)

### Plenary (10-15 minutes)

Discuss: Did the bombings come across differently depending on who was presenting and the time frame? How? Is it possible to report the bombings in a neutral way?

### Extension activity

- Get students to explore, in small groups, what some citizens in Britain, the US, Japan and other countries are currently doing to hold governments to account regarding their nuclear weapons non-proliferation commitments, including the UN global ban of 2017. Information is available at: [www.icanw.org/campaign/partner-organisations](http://www.icanw.org/campaign/partner-organisations). Encourage students to come up with counter-arguments (i.e. arguments for countries keeping and/or developing nuclear weapons).
- Show students some contemporary headlines on nuclear weapons, and get them – in pairs or small groups – to analyse these in terms of audience and reliability. Have them feedback in a plenary, and ask them what the headlines tell us about current attitudes on the issue.

### Enrichment

- Students can get involved with today's wider debate around nuclear weapons in many ways. Give them information from the British Government website on why the Government wants Britain to keep its nuclear weapons, and from CND's website on why CND opposes this.
- Encourage students to email their MP to support or challenge their position on the UK's nuclear weapons via the website [writetothem.com](http://writetothem.com) (which outlines MPs' voting record on nuclear weapons and other issues).

# The British Evening News

## 7 August 1945

Your news report will be broadcast in cinemas and on the radio across the whole of Britain. It will be broadcast on August 7 1945, the day after the bombing of Hiroshima.

### Information

- Britain and Japan were enemies during World War Two. Britain and USA were allies. Britain had cooperated with USA in developing the nuclear bomb, and Prime Minister Churchill gave Truman Britain's consent to drop the nuclear bombs on Japan.
- Even though the war was over in Europe, Britain was still suffering badly. A lot of people had died and many people's homes had been destroyed by German bombing.
- As your report is the day after the Hiroshima bomb, it is not yet known how many people have been killed, but it is believed to be tens of thousands.

### Tips

- People might be glad that World War Two could soon be over.
- They wouldn't yet fully understand the damage that had been done. They won't have heard of a nuclear bomb before (and may not understand it).

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# The British Evening News

## Present day

Your news report will be broadcast on TV across Britain, but also online, so anyone in the world could view it. It is about views on the bombings of people in Britain today.

### Information

- Britain and Japan were enemies during World War Two, but today they are not.
- People in Britain today have a variety of opinions about nuclear weapons. Some think we should get rid of our nuclear weapons, and some think we should keep them.
- We will never know exactly how many people were killed or injured by the atomic bombs. It's estimated that 80,000 people died instantly when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and 40,000 in Nagasaki, and that the overall death toll may have reached as many as 340,000. At least 94,000 were injured in total.
- Some people think that the bombs ended World War Two, and others do not.

### Tips

- You are supposed to be unbiased, by interviewing people who have different points of view.
- Viewers will want to know what people think about the current nuclear weapons situation in the world, including the UK's nuclear weapons.

# Japan Tonight

## 10 August 1945

Your news report will be broadcast in cinemas and on the radio across the whole of Japan. It will be broadcast on 10 August 1945, the day after the bombing of Nagasaki.

- The day of your broadcast is the day after the nuclear bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. This is the second nuclear bomb that has been dropped on Japan in four days.
- Japan and US were enemies in World War Two. Japan had suffered very badly during the war; many people had died and many people's homes had been destroyed.
- Japan had rejected the US, British and Chinese demand that they surrender (the Potsdam Declaration). However, some senior Japanese officials did want to surrender; the main barrier was the need to keep the Emperor – who had a god-like status – in power.
- As your report is the day after the Nagasaki bomb, it is not yet known how many people have been killed, but it is believed to be tens of thousands.
- 80,000 people died instantly in Hiroshima when the first bomb was dropped.

### Tips

- Japanese people may be feeling very scared as there might be more nuclear bombs to come. Japan has not yet surrendered
- The USSR (Russia) has also just declared war on Japan. There may not yet be much information about this, or the Nagasaki bomb.

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# Japan Tonight

## Present day

Your news report will be broadcast on TV to the whole of Japan, but also online, so anyone in the world can view it. It is about the views of people in Japan today on the bombings.

### Information

- In the Second World War, Japan was enemies with China, the US, Britain, and – at the end of the war – the Soviet Union (Russia), but today Japan has relatively good relations with these countries.
- Between 185,000 and 340,000 people (mostly Japanese civilians) were killed by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, and at least 94,000 were badly injured.
- Although Japan committed to never getting nuclear weapons, today some influential Japanese people (such as some politicians) think this should change.

### Tips

- It would be interesting to have interviews with some of the survivors of the bombings who are still alive, as well as with some young people.
- You might want to interview at least one person who thinks Japan *should* get nuclear weapons.
- The audience will want to know what people think about current tensions between nearby North Korea, South Korea and the US.

# U.S. News Now

## 2 September 1945

Your news report will be broadcast in cinemas and on the radio across the whole of the US. It is September 2 1945

### Information

- It is September 2 1945: Victory over Japan Day.
- In 1941, Japan bombed the American naval base of Pearl Harbour, killing many American soldiers and destroying American ships. The next day, the US declared war on Japan.
- President Truman said that the bombs were partly to avenge Pearl Harbour, and partly to save the lives of Americans and Japanese who would have died if the US had invaded Japan by land.
- Japan surrendered a few days after the bombs were dropped, although some historians argue that it may have surrendered without the bombings.

### Tips

- You might want to interview people who were glad that the bombs were dropped, such as people in the US military, or their relatives.
- Can you think of anyone in the US who might have been against the bombings?

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# U.S. News Now

## Present day

Your news report will be broadcast on TV across the US, but also online, so anyone in the world could view it. It is about the views of people in the US today on the bombings

### Information

- In the Second World War, the US and Japan were enemies, but today they are not.
- President Truman, who made the decision on the bombings, said in 1945 that they were partly to avenge the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, and partly to save the lives of Americans and Japanese who would have died if the US had invaded Japan by land.
- Many Americans today believe that the bombings were justified. However, some disagree, pointing to evidence that Japan may have surrendered soon anyway.

### Tips

- You might want to have a biased report, or you might want it to include a balance of views.
- Viewers will want to know what people think about the current nuclear weapons situation in the world, including the tensions between the US and North Korea, and between the US and Russia. The US and Russia each have far more nuclear weapons than all of the other seven nuclear weapons countries combined.

# USSR Today

## 10 August 1945

Your news report will be broadcast in cinemas and on the radio across the whole of the USSR (Russia). It will be broadcast on 10 August 1945.

### Information

- The USSR has just declared war on Japan, and started a land invasion of Japanese-occupied territory. Japan was helping Germany, which was the USSR's main enemy. The USSR is allied with America and Britain.
- Your report will be broadcast three days after the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima; and one day after the second bomb was dropped, on Nagasaki.
- The USSR did not know that the bomb dropped on Hiroshima was going to be a nuclear bomb, but they knew it was a particularly powerful new type of weapon.

### Tips

- The USSR might be keen to show the US that they are strong too.
- You might want to interview the Soviet leader (Stalin) or someone from the Soviet army.
- You might want to interview an ordinary Russian on their thoughts.

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# Russia Now

## Present day

Your news report will be broadcast on TV across Russia, but also online, so anyone in the world could view it. It is about the views of people in the Russia today on the bombings.

### Information

- In the Second World War, the USSR was an ally of the US and Britain from 1941, and enemies with Japan at the end of the war.
- The USSR built its first nuclear weapon in 1949. During the Cold War stand-off between the USSR and the US from 1945-1991, both countries created thousands of nuclear weapons. Each has far more than all of the other seven nuclear weapons countries combined.
- Today, there is a lot of tension between Russia and the US.

### Tips

- You might want to have a biased report, or you might want it to include a balance of views.
- Viewers will want to know what people think about the current nuclear weapons situation in the world, including the tensions between Russia and the US, and between North Korea and the US.

# Peace Times

## 8 August 1945

Your news report will be published in the Peace Times newspaper, which is read by thousands of people in Britain.

### Information

- Peace Times is a newspaper dedicated to calling for peaceful solutions to problems, rather than war.
- It is opposed to Britain's involvement in the Second World War, and its readers will be horrified by the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- The majority of people in the UK disagree with Peace Times.

### Tips

- You might want to interview anti-war protestors of different ages and backgrounds.
- Peace Times is not trying to be balanced: its aim is to oppose all war

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# Peace Times

## Present day

Your news report will be broadcast on TV across Britain, but also online, so anyone in the world could view it. It is about the views that anti-war protestors in Britain today on the bombings.

### Information

- Each August, people have been holding vigils across the UK and the world to remember the 185,000-340,000 killed and at least 94,000 injured in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- They are also calling for nuclear weapons to never be used again, and for all nuclear weapons to be dismantled. In July 2017, around 60% of the world's countries voted for a global ban on nuclear weapons, and the anti-nuclear weapons organisation ICAN won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.
- Britain has about 215 nuclear weapons.
- People in the UK have different views on nuclear weapons – some people think we should get rid of them and others think we need to keep them.

### Tips

- You might want to interview a survivor to hear their story.
- You could interview anti-war campaigners to get their views, including on the current nuclear weapons situation. Look at the CND website for examples of how citizens around the world are trying to persuade their governments to get rid of their nuclear weapons.