



The Role of the Media: Part of the Problem or Solution?

Lesson Plan: Civics 10; Media Studies 11; Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology 11; Challenge and Change in Society 12

Key themes: Media-Centered Democracy; accurate media coverage

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

Lesson Steps

- Discuss Pre-Viewing Question with students
- View the clips of Carol Tator and Haroon Siddiqui
- Present students with the day's newspapers or access to online editions of the newspapers. Have small groups find articles that illustrate the point of the speakers

Pre-Viewing Activities

- 1) Discuss the meaning of the phrase: "media-centred democracy". How have the political and legal communities changed due to the media?

Activity

- 1) Examine today's media (papers, online, TV newscasts, etc). Look for examples of what the various speakers describe (e.g.: Tator – absence of white crime references; Siddiqui – double standards; Kay – excessive identification of racism). What other biases can you detect in the way legal or political issues are covered?

Related OJEN Resources (www.ojen.ca)

Justice and the Media Resource (120 page resource of classroom activities on the relationship between the Media and the justice system. Available at no cost at www.ojen.ca)