

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

Lesson Plan: Civics 10; Canadian History Since WWI 10; Canadian History and Politics Since 1945 11; Media Studies 11; Canada: History, Identity, Culture 12

Key themes: Media portrayal of controversial issues; Ipperwash Inquiry

Estimated Time: 60 minutes

Lesson Steps

- Discuss Pre-Viewing Question with students
- View the clips
- Discuss the Post-Viewing Questions as a class
- Do the Research Activity
- In class, or as a homework assignment, ask students to reflect on their personal experiences by completing the worksheet

Pre-Viewing Discussion Questions

- 1) Does the media contribute to the problem of hatred and hate crime? How could the media serve to help with the problem?
- 2) Discuss the role of the media in Canadian society. What is it right now? What should it be? What responsibilities do members of the media have when it comes to covering sensitive issues?

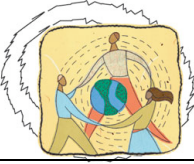
Post-Viewing Discussion Questions

- 1) Revisit the pre-viewing discussion questions. Did the speakers' arguments change your perspective? Did they raise points you hadn't considered?

Research Activity

Assign students one of the following research assignments. Have them prepare either a written summary of their research or a class presentation on the issue.

- a) Explore some of these issues such as the Ipperwash incident using the CBC digital archives (<http://archives.cbc.ca>) or the Ipperwash Inquiry's website. How does the media portray the various sides during and after the incident?



Combating Hatred in the 21st Century



b) Use the CBC digital archives to explore historical and recent footage of contentious issues (e.g.: the FLQ crisis, Ipperwash, etc). Analyze and discuss the media coverage. How does the media serve to shape your perspective on the issue?

Related OJEN Resources (www.ojen.ca)

Landmark Case Package: Ipperwash Inquiry (summary of inquiry recommendations, worksheets, discussion questions)

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.)