



Forecasting fact-busters

Overview

“How do we tell weather stories from different angles?” Through this activity you will explore different ways we can make and communicate predictions about the weather. You will use what you learn to create a ‘weather story’, thinking about how this is a key part of forecasters’ and meteorologists’ work.

Activity steps

01

Collect stories

Over at least a week, look out for and collect as many stories in the news and media about the weather as you can find – this could be in the form of newspaper or magazine cut-outs, photos of billboards or advertising, links to YouTube or online articles and so on.



Time required

90 minutes



Materials required

- Newspapers, magazines
- Camera or phone
- Internet access



Tip

If you go on holiday, why not create your report about the weather there? You could use clippings from the local newspapers or television. If English isn't the first or only spoken language at your holiday location, why not include some weather vocabulary in the local language?

02 Analyse your findings

Once you have collected your stories, sit down and look through them. Think about how the media uses tone, language, images etc. to reach their audience. Pay attention to the different ways the same weather is communicated. Which stories are the most interesting and engaging? Which stories are the most accurate? What techniques do they use (e.g. exaggeration, metaphors, different styles)? Do the stories that sound most interesting or exciting always have the most accurate information?

03 Write a mini-report

Write up a report based on your findings, including a conclusion explaining which pieces seem trustworthy or untrustworthy to you and why. You can make your report in any format you like, e.g. including images or links to clips from the stories you collected.

04 Make your own weather story

Use what you have learnt from other weather reports to create your own weather story. You can bring it to life any way you like, e.g. as a filmed weather report, news article, diary entry, piece of creative writing, infographic-style poster or leaflet. How will you keep the attention of your audience whilst also delivering factual information?

Tips

- Stuck on how to make your story sound interesting? Take a look at this weather vocabulary for inspiration www.vocabulary.cl/english/weather.htm
- Think about the balance of information and story-telling. Too many facts can come across as very dry and a bit boring, but too few facts can result in fake news.