

GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans

Area/Skill - LA, Reading	Cognitive Skill Level—Analysis	Correlation to Framework - 04.05	Lesson Number - 07
<p>Activity Title - That Is Not My Opinion!</p> <p>Goal/Objective</p> <p>To construct meaning from a wide range of text.</p> <p>Lesson Outline Introduction</p> <p>Opinions, ideas and commentaries written in newspapers and magazines or heard on television are devoted to providing readers with the biased opinions, often introduced as facts, of the editor or publisher. Sometimes these editorials are blunt, unconventional and provocative. Readers must learn to decipher information and make judgments so they will not be easily persuaded by the opinions of the writers.</p> <p>Activity</p> <p>As a group search through issues of the local newspaper for interesting editorials. After reading the editorial, have the students decide the writer's position on the issue. Have the student also determine the purpose of the editorial.</p> <p>Debriefing/Evaluation Activity</p> <p>Discuss the writer's position. Ask the students if they agree or disagree with the position and why. Ask the student's if the editorial was persuasive and included sufficient verifiable facts or just opinion.</p>			<p>Materials/Texts/Realia/Handouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorials from local newspaper or Internet • Paper, pencil • Clipboards or sturdy writing surface
			<p>Extension Activity</p> <p>Have students bring in samples of editorials to share with the class for interpretation. Select an editorial for each class period.</p>
			<p>ESE/ESOL Accommodations</p> <p>Provide student with an audio-tape version of the editorial</p> <p>Highlight key concepts, facts, details, etc in the editorial</p>
<p>Real-Life Connection</p> <p>Have students debate current issues. Provide students with an opportunity to conduct research using the Internet or media center and develop arguments for and against a current issue. Conduct the debates and have students vote for the most convincing arguments.</p>			

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Activity Title—That Is Not My Opinion

Introduction

Say: Opinions, ideas and commentaries written in newspapers and magazines or heard on television are devoted provide readers with the biased opinions, often introduced as facts, of the editor or publisher. Sometimes these editorials are blunt, unconventional and provocative. As a reader and a member of the community you must learn to decipher information and make judgments so they will not be easily persuaded by the opinions of the writers.

Main Activity

Say: Today, you are going to have an opportunity to read editorials from the local newspaper. Your job is to determine the writer's position based on the facts related in the editorial. You must also determine if the writer's position is based on verifiable facts or if the position is based solely on opinion. As a group search through issues of the local newspaper for interesting editorials. As a final component, determine the purpose of the editorial. For example: was it done to influence a member of the city council to vote a certain way, was it done to convince individuals to support a tax reduction or increase, etc?

Debriefing/Evaluation Activity

Discuss the writer's position with the students. Ask the students if they agree or disagree with the position and why. Ask the students if the editorial was persuasive and included sufficient verifiable facts or just opinion.