10 ideas for…

building HASS skills (Secondary)

Grab today's newspaper and…

1. Choose an article and identify all the facts included in it. Are the sources of the facts noted? To what extent are these sources reliable? Try using your own research to check if the facts are accurate.

2. Examine the elements, symbols and messages in political cartoons…or draw a cartoon which links into one of the news stories.

3. Find an article relating to a new law, government initiative or capital building project. Underline arguments for and against the changes that are offered in the article. Discuss any other possible plusses or minuses associated with the changes, and then write a letter to the editor explaining your views.

4. Create a table to show what information and opinions are included in an article, what information is missing, and where you could find the missing information. Can you suggest a reason why some information about the topic was not included?

5. Find an article related to the theme you are studying in class. Simplify and explain the content of the article so that a younger student could understand it.

6. Analyse data in charts, graphs, diagrams and tables and explain what information, trends or anomalies they communicate.

7. Choose an article and explain what you believe the writer wanted you to think, feel or understand about topic discussed. What makes you believe this?

8. Consider an issue discussed in the paper, then write a hypothesis about how the issue may be resolved or the likely impact of the issue. Review your hypothesis later on in the year – were you correct?

9. Find an article which seems a balanced and neutral report on an issue or event. Change its heading into a clickbait heading, and re-write the article so that it 'sensationalises' the content and appears biased towards one point of view.

10. Find an article which relates to conflict of state, national or global significance. Working with a partner, identify the consequences of the conflict continuing, and propose a course of action to resolve it.

media education