

From Newsrooms to Smartphones: The New Face of Journalism

Film, Media Studies, and Journalism

PART 01 Pre-Reading & Visualization

"Is technology a tool to help us reach our goals, or is it a shortcut that erases our individual voices?"

PART 02 The Reading Text



BLOG POST • FILM, MEDIA STUDIES, AND JOURNALISM

The Evolution of News

For many years, the news was controlled by large media companies. Information was gathered by professional reporters, and stories were edited by experts before they were printed or broadcast. This traditional "gatekeeping" meant that news was often slow, but it was usually checked for facts. People sat down at the same time every evening to watch the news on TV, creating a shared experience across the country.

The Rise of the Citizen Journalist

Today, the world of media has changed. Because of smartphones and high-speed internet, news is now produced by anyone with a camera. This is called "citizen journalism." When a major event happens, videos are often uploaded to social media before professional news crews even arrive. Information is shared instantly across the globe. While this makes the media more democratic, it also creates challenges. Sometimes, "fake news" is spread because the facts are not verified by a professional editor.

Media Literacy for the Future

In media studies, students learn that we must be careful consumers of information. We should ask: Who created this video? Why was it shared? In the digital age, the responsibility has shifted. In the past, the truth was protected by journalists; today, the truth must be found by the readers themselves. Learning to tell the difference between a biased opinion and a factual report is now an essential skill for everyone.

PART 03 Active Reading (QAR)**1. Right There (Find the facts):**

1. Who used to control the news in the past?

2. What is the name for news produced by regular people with smartphones?

2. Think and Search (Connect the ideas):

3. According to the text, what is one advantage and one disadvantage of news being shared "instantly"?

3. Author and You (Infer and analyze):

4. The author says the "responsibility has shifted" to the reader. Do you feel confident deciding if a news story is true or false? What steps do you take to check?

PART 04 Glossary

- **Broadcast (verb/noun):** To send out programs on television or radio.
- **Gatekeeping (noun):** The process of controlling information so that only certain facts are made public.
- **Verified (adjective):** Checked to make sure that something is true or accurate.
- **Biased (adjective):** Showing a strong opinion or preference for one side rather than being neutral.

**WORKSHEET CORE REFLECTION**

Review your answers and vocabulary entries above. Prepare to discuss how these terms apply to real-world contexts.

TEACHER'S GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

Level: **B1**
(INTERMEDIATE)

Duration: 45 mins

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

TOPIC CONTEXT

From Newsrooms to Smartphones: The New Face of Journalism

OBJECTIVE

Students will identify the differences between traditional and citizen journalism while practicing the passive voice in context.

VOCABULARY TERMS

Broadcast Gatekeeping

Verified Biased

GRAMMAR FOCUS

- Passive Voice (Present and Past)

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURE

1. **Pre-reading (10 mins):** Display the image prompt. Ask students to discuss in pairs: "If you saw a fire or a big celebration, would you call the news or post it on Instagram first?"
2. **Reading & Chunked Tasks (20 mins):**
 - Read Paragraph 1: Ask students to underline examples of the passive voice (e.g., *was controlled*, *was gathered*, *were edited*).
 - Read Paragraph 2 & 3: Direct students to look for the definition of "citizen journalism" and "media literacy."
3. **Post-Reading & QAR Discussion (15 mins):**
 - Use the QAR questions to move from literal understanding to critical thinking.
 - **Extension:** Ask students to find a "trending" news story on their phones and identify if it was produced by a professional news outlet or a citizen journalist.