



LESSON PLAN: BE the Press: Local Interviews, National Issues

Handout #4

Ideas for Newspaper Articles

The economy – ask people in your family if they think the economy is weak or strong and why. Go to the local mall. Ask shoppers, store workers and store owners how they feel about the economy. Do they think it will get better or worse? Why? What do they think of the economic stimulus plans proposed in Washington?

Health care – ask your family members what kind of insurance you have. Are they satisfied with it? Visit a hospital and talk to an administrator. What problems do they see with the health insurance system? Visit an emergency room and talk to waiting patients. Talk to a variety of people: an elderly person, a recent college graduate, a doctor, someone who is currently without health insurance. What do they think about the various plans proposed by the presidential candidates?

War in Iraq – ask neighbors whether they oppose or support the war and why. Which presidential candidate do they trust to fix the situation?

Education – What does your principal think about the No Child Left Behind Act? Talk to the principal and teachers about how education has changed in the last five years. Compare public to private schools. Compare elementary school teachers to high school teachers.

Housing Market – take a long walk around your community and see how many homes or buildings are for sale. Talk to someone who is trying to sell their house. Interview a real estate developer or agent about the health of the real estate market.

Homeland Security – do some research on your town or city. Are there military bases? Are there nuclear power plants? Are there places where large numbers of people gather? Who's in charge of security at these locations? Interview public officials about how your community has prepared for an attack.

Environment – Visit a recycling center and talk to the folks who work there and the people who come by to deliver their recycling. What do they think about the presidential candidates and their stances on the environment? What environmental issues do they think are most important?

Global Warming – Research any solar or wind-powered projects of homes in your community. Talk to someone who has lived in your community for a long time. Have they noticed climate changes? Did there used to be more snow? More rain? How do people feel about climate change, do they think it politicians should be doing more to prevent it?