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UNIT 5

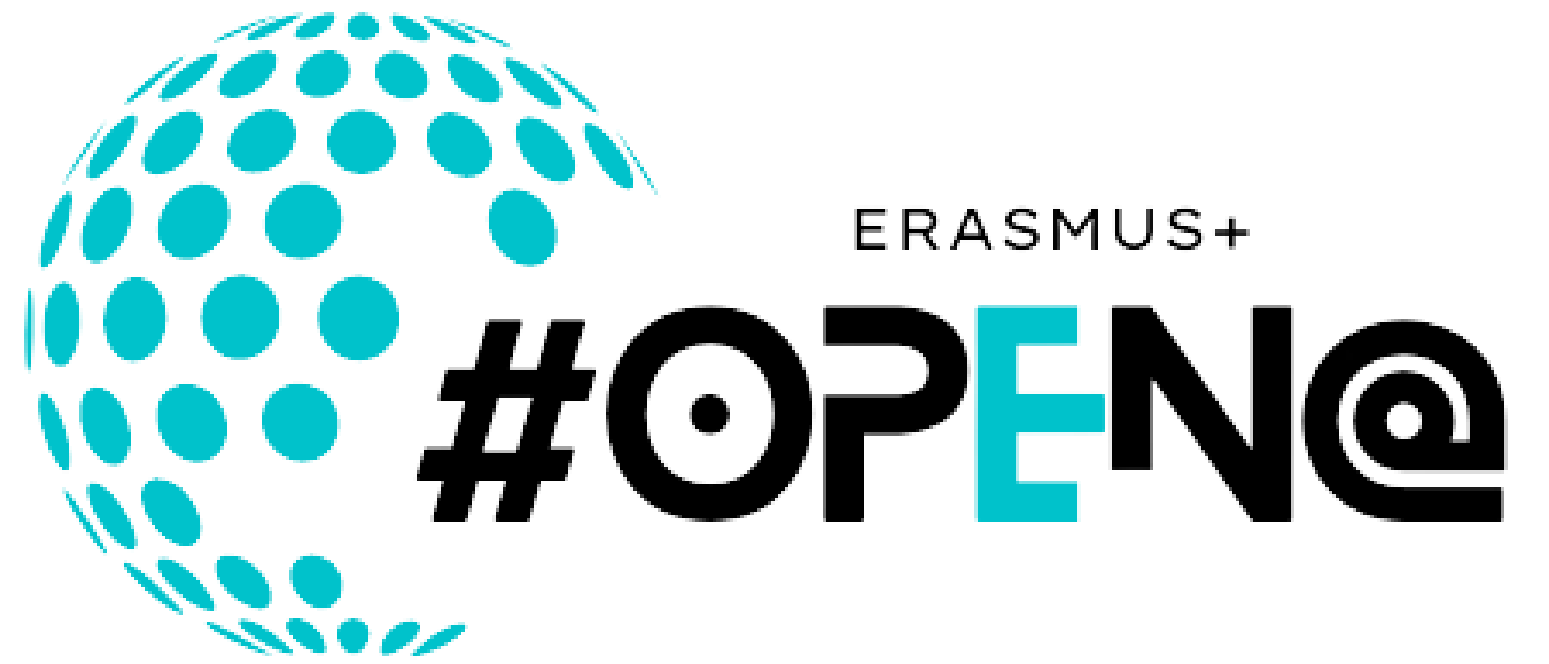## News creating strategies

Goals of the Unit

Aims to develop language skills, critical thinking, news literacy, cultural awareness, real-world communication skills, creativity, critical reflection, media literacy, and career-related skills.

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How to research ?

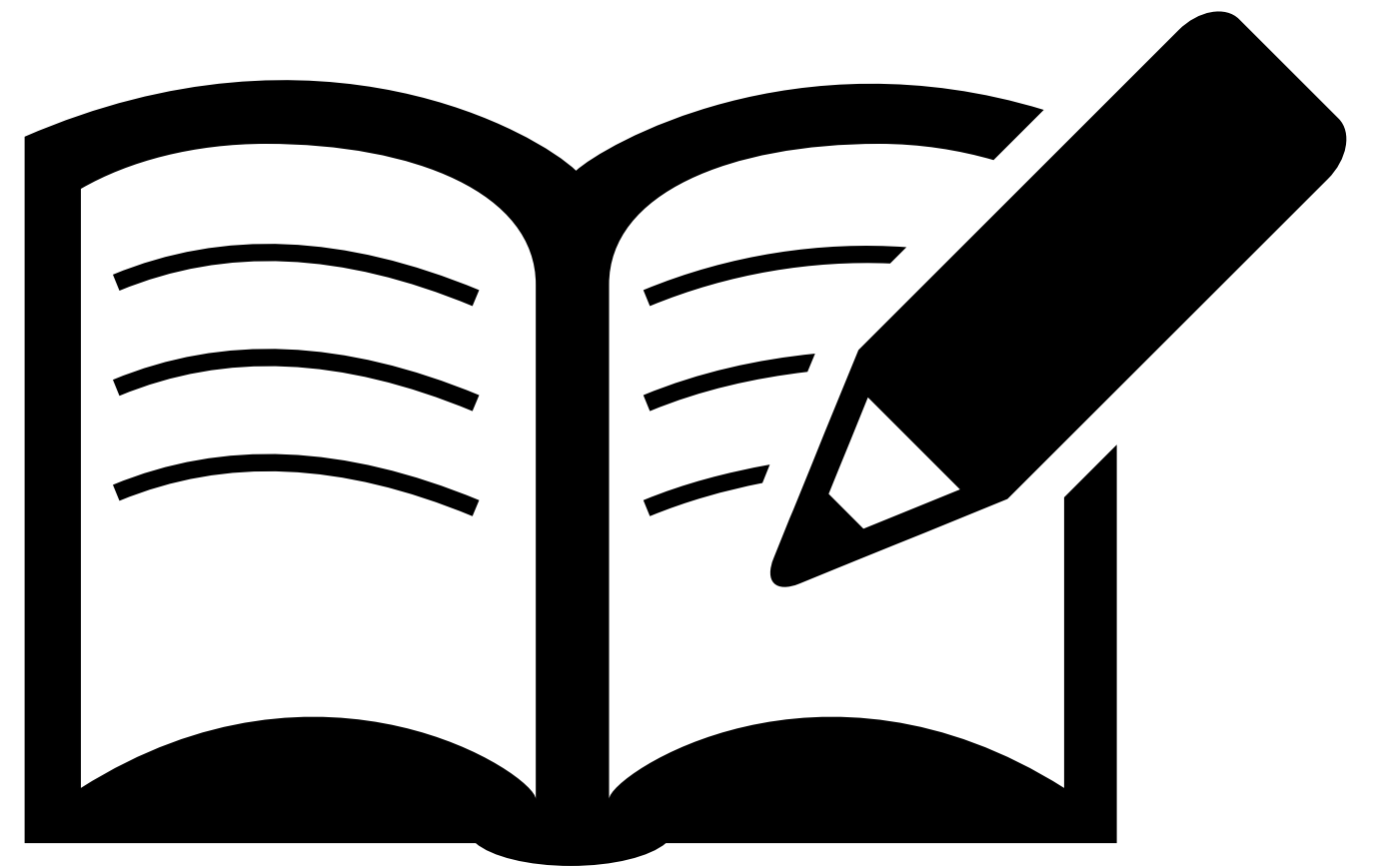How to conduct?

How to implement ?

Learning Outcomes

- Identifying newsworthy topics
- Research techniques
- The inverted pyramid structure
- Multimedia elements
- Language skills, vocabulary building
- Creative writing

Why is research importan?

- **Efficiency and effectiveness**

- **Risk management**

- **Resource allocation**

- **Innovation and creativity**

- **Long-term success**

Efficiency and effectiveness:
Research and planning helps in identifying the most effective and efficient ways to achieve a goal or solve a problem. .
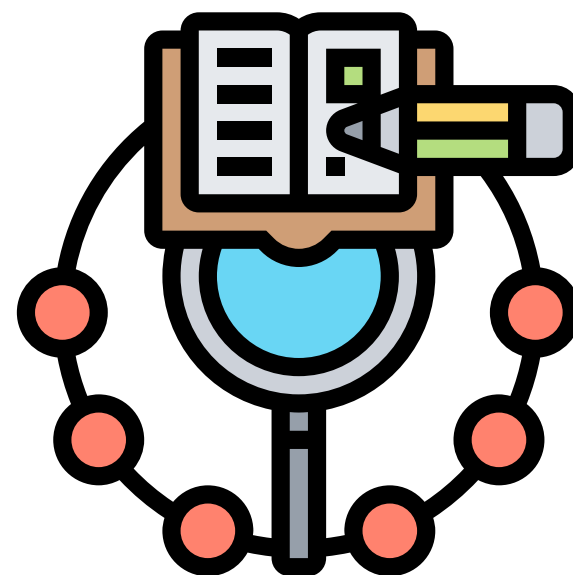
Risk management:
Research and planning enables you to anticipate and mitigate risks. By thoroughly researching you can identify potential obstacles and minimize risks .

Resource allocation
Research and planning help in optimizing resource allocation. They allow you to determine the right resources, including time, money, and personnel, needed for a task or project.

Innovation and creativity:
Research and planning foster innovation and creativity by encouraging exploration and generating new ideas. They provide a structured approach to problem-solving, which can lead to new insights and innovative solutions.

Long-term success:
Research and planning are crucial for long-term success. They help in setting clear goals, developing strategies, and creating roadmaps for achieving those goals. By constantly researching and planning, you can adapt to changing circumstances

Process step by step

Step 1: Identify newsworthy topics

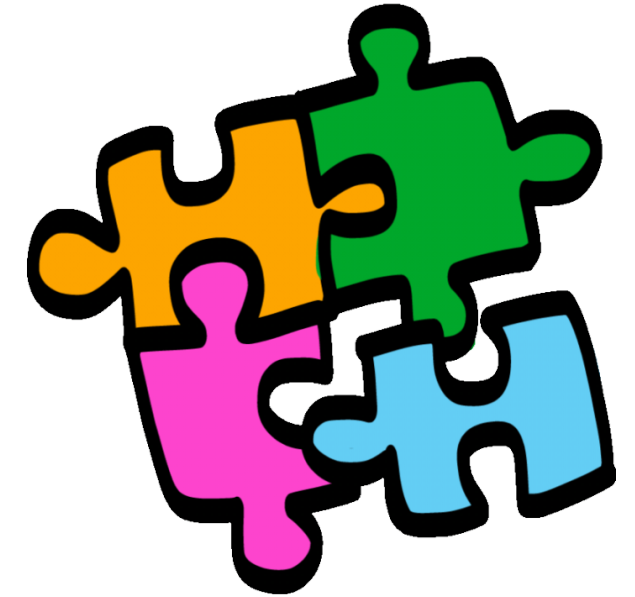Step 2: Conduct thorough research

Step 3: Develop a compelling angle

Step 4: Plan the structure and format

Step 5: Write the news story

Step 7: Review and edit

Methods and techniques

- **Interviewing:** Conducting interviews with relevant sources

- **Source evaluation:** Assess the credibility and reliability

- **Storytelling techniques:** Use storytelling techniques, such as narrative structure, anecdotes, or human-interest elements, to make news stories compelling and engaging.

- **Multimedia elements:** Incorporate multimedia elements, such as images, videos, infographics, or interactive elements, to enhance the news story and provide visual context

- **Writing style:** Use clear, concise, and objective language when writing news stories. Follow the inverted pyramid structure with the most important information in the lead paragraph

- **Editing and proofreading:** Review and edit the news story carefully for grammar, spelling, and style errors. Ensure that the story is coherent, logical, and free of inaccuracies or biases.

Didactic tools

Interactive presentations: Use interactive presentations, such as slideshows or multimedia presentations, to engage students in the research process. Include visuals, videos, and interactive elements to make the content more interesting and accessible

Teaching research skills to high school students can be enhanced using various didactic tools, including:

Hands-on activities: Incorporate hands-on activities that allow students to actively participate in the research process. For example, provide opportunities for students to conduct surveys, interviews, or experiments to collect data, analyze findings, and draw conclusions.

Library and online resources: Introduce students to different types of research resources, including library materials, online databases, and credible websites. Teach them how to navigate and evaluate these resources for reliability, relevance, and credibility.

Didactic tools

Research tools and software: Introduce students to research tools and software

Research templates and worksheets: Provide research templates and worksheets that guide students through the research process, including steps like defining research questions, conducting literature reviews, and organizing findings.

Group discussions and debates: Encourage group discussions and debatesto foster critical thinking and analysis skills.

Real-world examples: Use real-world examples and case studies to illustrate the importance of research in various contexts, such as current events, social issues, or historical events.

Peer review and feedback: Incorporate peer review and feedback sessions where students can exchange and evaluate each other's research work. This encourages collaboration, critical thinking, and provides opportunities for students to improve their research skills through constructive feedback.

Resources

where to look for

News websites: News websites from reputable sources, such as BBC News, The New York Times, Reuters, or The Guardian, can provide authentic news articles and stories written in English. These websites cover a wide range of topics and provide opportunities for students to practice reading, comprehension, and analysis skills.

Newspapers and magazines: Printed newspapers and magazines in English, either in physical or digital formats, can serve as valuable resources for teaching English through journalism. They often cover current events, human interest stories, and opinion pieces that can be used for reading and discussion activities in the classroom.

Online journalism resources: There are numerous online resources that provide lessons, tutorials, and activities related to journalism in English. Websites such as the Poynter Institute, Newsela, and the Center for News Literacy offer resources specifically designed for educators and students interested in journalism and news literacy in English.

Authentic interviews and documentaries: Authentic interviews, documentaries, and news broadcasts in English can be used as listening and speaking resources for teaching English through journalism.
English language learning websites: English language learning websites, such as Duolingo, ESL Printables, and British Council, often provide resources and activities related to journalism and news in English. These websites offer lessons, worksheets, and interactive exercises that focus on language skills and vocabulary related to journalism.

Guest speakers and field trips: Inviting guest speakers, such as journalists or news reporters, to speak to students or organizing field trips to local news organizations can provide firsthand experiences and insights into the world of journalism in English. These interactions can help students develop language skills and gain a deeper understanding of journalism practices and techniques.

Multimedia tools: Incorporate multimedia tools, such as videos, podcasts, and interactive websites, into your lessons. Platforms like TED Talks, NPR, and The New York Times offer multimedia content that can engage English language learners and provide authentic language input.

Professional organizations and conferences: Join professional organizations, such as TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) or IATEFL (International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language), and attend conferences or workshops focused on English language instruction and journalism

Online communities and forums: Join online communities, forums, and social media groups focused on English language instruction and journalism. These platforms provide opportunities to connect with other educators, share resources, and seek advice on incorporating journalism into language teaching.

When using these resources, it's important to carefully select age-appropriate and reliable sources, and adapt the materials to the language proficiency level of the students. Incorporating authentic journalism resources into English language lessons can provide students with meaningful and engaging opportunities to develop their language skills while learning about the field of journalism.

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ACTIVITY

Research and News Writing

Objective: To develop English language skills through the practice of news writing, including conducting research, developing a compelling angle, planning the structure and format, and writing a news story.

Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Procedure:

- Ask students to share their understanding of the news writing process based on the information provided in Step 2 to Step 5. (curriculum)
- Discuss as a class and elicit students' prior knowledge about news writing, including the importance of accurate research, compelling angles, structure, and language use.
- Review any relevant vocabulary and grammar concepts related to news writing.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Provide students with examples of news articles or news topics related to their interests or relevant to the class.

Instruct students to conduct thorough research on their chosen topic, using reputable sources, such as news websites, interviews, documents, or data, to gather accurate and reliable information.

Encourage students to fact-check their information to ensure accuracy and credibility

Discuss with students the importance of a compelling angle in news writing and how it helps capture the interest of the audience.

Instruct students to brainstorm and develop a unique and compelling angle for their news story based on the information they have gathered in Step 2.
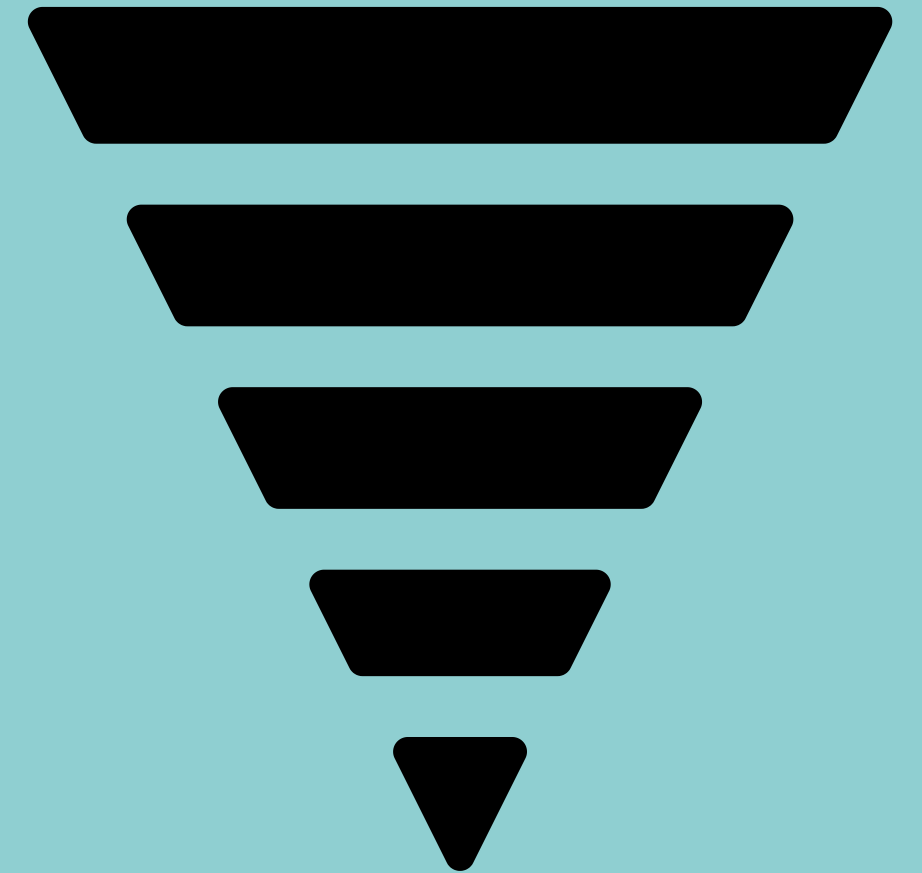
Encourage students to consider different perspectives, viewpoints, and angles to provide a well-rounded and engaging story.

Structure and format planning activity

Introduce the inverted pyramid structure, which places the most important information in the lead paragraph, followed by supporting details in descending order of importance.

Discuss with students the importance of planning the structure and format of their news story before writing. Instruct students to plan the structure and format of their news story based on the angle they have developed in Step 3, using the inverted pyramid structure.

News writing activity

Instruct students to start writing their news story, following the structure and format they have planned in Step 4. Emphasize the importance of starting with a clear and concise lead paragraph that summarizes the main points of the story.

Instruct students to use simple and understandable language, avoiding jargon or technical terms that may confuse the audience.

Encourage students to revise and edit their news story for accuracy, coherence, and clarity.

Follow-up activity

Optional: Have students share their news stories with the class or in pairs for peer review and feedback.

Lead a class discussion on the challenges and strategies of news writing, including conducting research, developing angles, and structuring news stories effectively.

ACTIVITY 2

Effective use of storytelling techniques and multimedia elements

Objective: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to effectively use storytelling techniques, multimedia elements, and journalistic writing style to create compelling news stories in English

Materials:
Whiteboard
Handout with news articles for analysis
Computer or mobile devices with internet access for multimedia elements
TED talk video or link for discussion

Provide a handout with news articles for analysis. Instruct students to read the articles and identify the storytelling techniques used, such as narrative structure, anecdotes, and human-interest elements. Have them take notes and discuss their findings in pairs or small groups.

Discuss the articles as a class and encourage students to share their observations. Emphasize the importance of using storytelling techniques to make news stories more compelling and engaging to readers or viewers.

Introduce the concept of multimedia elements in journalism. Explain how images, videos, infographics, and interactive elements can enhance news stories and provide visual context. Show examples of news articles that incorporate multimedia elements and discuss them as a class.

Have students work in pairs or small groups to find multimedia elements that are relevant to the news articles they analyzed earlier. They can search online for images, videos, infographics, or interactive elements that support the stories. Instruct them to discuss why they chose the multimedia elements they found and how they enhance the news stories.

Discuss the multimedia elements as a class and encourage students to share their findings. Emphasize the importance of using relevant multimedia elements to enhance the overall storytelling in news stories.

Show a TED talk video or provide a link to a TED talk related to journalism or storytelling. Have students watch the talk and take notes on the speaker's use of storytelling techniques, multimedia elements, and journalistic writing style.

Discuss the TED talk as a class and encourage students to share their observations. Lead a discussion on how the speaker effectively uses these elements to engage the audience and deliver a compelling message.

Summarize the key points covered in the lesson and highlight the importance of using storytelling techniques, multimedia elements, and journalistic writing style in creating compelling news stories in English.

Ask students to reflect on what they have learned and how they can apply these techniques in their future English writing tasks.

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Understanding the research question or prompt: Make sure students fully understand the research question or prompt provided for their essay. This includes identifying the key concepts, keywords, and scope of the topic.

Evaluating sources for credibility and reliability: Teach students to critically evaluate sources they find during their research. They should consider the credibility and reliability of the sources, such as the author's credentials, the publication or website's reputation, and the presence of bias.

Using a variety of sources: Encourage students to use a diverse range of sources, including academic journals, books, reputable websites, and primary sources, to provide a well-rounded and balanced perspective on the topic.

Taking notes and organizing information: Teach students effective note-taking techniques to capture important information from their sources. They should also learn how to organize their notes and ideas in a logical and coherent manner, using outlines or other strategies.

Avoiding plagiarism: Emphasize the importance of avoiding plagiarism by properly citing all sources used in their research

Fact-checking and verifying information: In the era of fake news and misinformation, it is crucial for students to fact-check and verify information from their sources. Teach them how to cross-reference information and use reliable fact-checking websites.

Time management: Research can be time-consuming, so it's important to teach students how to manage their time effectively. This includes setting deadlines for research, creating a schedule, and allocating enough time for reading, analyzing, and synthesizing information.

Critical thinking and analysis: Encourage students to critically analyze and synthesize the information they gather from their sources. Teach them how to identify patterns, draw connections, and form their own arguments and opinions based on the evidence they find.

Revision and refinement: Lastly, remind students that research is an ongoing process, and they may need to revise and refine their research as they progress with their essay writing. Encourage them to review and update their research as needed to ensure their essay is well-supported and well-written.

Preparing students for writing involves several important strategies

- Understanding the writing task
- Planning and organizing
- Conducting pre-writing activities
- Using evidence and examples
- Revising and editing
- Encouraging to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information from different sources.
- Building confidence and motivation

And don't forget as an educator, staying in touch with new teaching methods is crucial to ensure that you are providing the best possible education to your students. Here are some tips for teachers to stay updated with new teaching methods:

- **Attend professional development workshops, conferences, seminars, and webinars focused on teaching and learning.**
- **Collaborate with colleagues, both within your school or institution and beyond, to share ideas, experiences, and best practices.**
- **Stay updated with the latest trends, research, and innovations in education**
- **Take advantage of online learning opportunities, such as online courses, webinars, and virtual workshops, to learn about new teaching methods**
- **Stay updated with technology**

"Teaching writing is not just about teaching skills, but also about nurturing a writer's voice, creativity, and self-expression. It's about guiding students to discover their own stories and empowering them to share their unique perspectives with the world." - Donald H. Graves

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UNIT 5
News creating strategies

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