

Name: _____

Date: _____

Government in the News: Whose Story is It?

Task:

Learn how different news sources report on the same government decision or event. You'll practice being a critical thinker by comparing two articles, spotting differences, and drawing your own conclusions about what happened.

Instructions:

1. Pick a Topic:

Choose a **recent action by the government**. This could be a new law, funding announcement, policy, or decision made by the federal, provincial, or municipal government.

2. Find Two Articles:

Use trusted websites to find **two different news reports** about your topic. Find two sources that have a different take on the government action. Find information from:

- Mainstream news sites (CBC, CTV, Global, National Post)
- Local news outlets (e.g., Times Colonist, Vancouver Sun)
- Government news releases (for comparison with journalistic sources)
 - *NOTE: Often, the government will send out a press release to news agencies to print. Consider using a government press release and a news source that discusses the press release with additional commentary.

3. Compare and Contrast:

Use the **comparison chart** to analyze both articles. Look for things like:

- The headline and language used
- What facts are included or left out
- Whose voices are quoted (government, citizens, experts?)
- What the article makes you *feel* or *think*

4. Reflect and Share:

Answer the reflection questions to show what you learned.

Success Criteria:

You'll be successful if you:

- Clearly compare the two sources
- Support your ideas with evidence from the articles
- Show critical thinking in your reflection
- Organize your work clearly and thoughtfully



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Government in the News: Comparison Chart

Question	Source 1	Source 2
Who wrote/published it?		
What headline or title is used?		
What details are included (or left out)?		
What tone or language is used (neutral, supportive, critical)?		

Question	Source 1	Source 2
Are quotes used? From whom? (government, citizens, experts, etc.)		
What image(s) is shown? How does the image(s) make you feel or think?		
What do you think is the intended audience or purpose?		
What the article makes you feel or think		
What do you think happened based on both articles?		

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Government in the News: Reflection

1. What were the most noticeable similarities and differences between the two reports?

2. How did each article shape your opinion of the government action?

3. Which article did you trust more, and why?

4. What did you learn about how media can affect what people believe?

5. Why is it important to read more than one source?

Government in the News - Marking Rubric

Name(s): _____

Criteria	Extending	Proficient	Developing	Emerging
Topic Selection and Article Choice	Selected a timely, relevant, and complex issue; articles show contrasting perspectives or bias clearly.	Chose a relevant and current government action; articles show clear differences in tone or focus.	Chose a relevant government action with some guidance; articles are loosely related or similar in bias.	Chose a government topic with significant teacher help; did not choose a government topic; articles are missing or off-topic.
Comparison Chart	Insightful and detailed comparison; explains how differences affect public perception	Clearly compares headlines, tone, facts, voices, and bias between articles	Some comparison of content and tone; includes a few accurate points	Few or no differences/similarities noted; surface-level observations
Critical Thinking & Media Awareness	Provides deep insight into media framing, bias, and reliability; connects findings to broader issues	Demonstrates thoughtful analysis of media influence and bias; includes a supported personal opinion	Shows basic understanding of bias and perspective; some personal reflection	Limited understanding of how media shapes understanding; minimal personal opinion
Neatness and Organization	Work is well-organized, creative, and polished; effectively communicates ideas to the reader/audience	Work is clear, neat, and logically organized; ideas are easy to follow	Work is mostly organized; ideas are sometimes unclear or underdeveloped	Work is incomplete or disorganized; ideas are unclear
Reflection Questions	Reflection shows deep thought, fully addressing all questions with insightful answers.	Reflection addresses all questions with clear and thoughtful answers.	Reflection addresses some questions, but answers may lack depth or clarity.	Reflection is incomplete or shows minimal effort in answering questions.