

Tutor notes for Module 2

Developing your understanding



Module 2: Developing your understanding, Section A, Challenge 4

Challenge title	Improving your ability to identify facts and opinions		
Challenge	Find a newspaper or magazine article where the writer is offering their opinion on something. Read the article carefully and identify the language they have used to show their opinions. Explain what the opinion of the writer is and use examples to explain how they have shown that opinion.		
Learning aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To encourage students to read closely to identify the intent of the writer• To encourage students to identify the effect of language choice• To improve students' ability to explain the effect of writers' choices		
Challenge ref.	2A4	Challenge time	approx. 2.5 hours
Skills	Considering purpose; Explaining the effect of language; Explaining the writer's choices; Retrieving information when reading		

Suggested approach

Support the student in selecting appropriate sources. News reports are often quite factual, which can limit the amount of opinion present in the writing. This can be better for challenging more able students, but can limit weaker students. Encourage students to select a news story and maybe bring an example of a report. If possible, find an alternative that is more of an editorial piece, so that the inclusion of writer opinions is more obvious.

Tutors could select the articles and provide them for students. In this case tutors should choose articles based on current affairs or issues of interest to the students; this will engage students and add interest to the challenge.

To identify the more subtle instances of opinion, encourage the student to evaluate the use of verbs and adjectives, as the description of events will often be crafted to encourage a particular view of the events.

For more able students the political bias of the print media could be explained in order to help the student to be more critical of what they are reading, but this is dependent on the news story that has been selected.

Suggested resources

The following learner resources are provided for this challenge:

- Challenge walkthrough 2A4