

NEWS IN THE MAKING

Anne Sweet

Levels (B1) B2, C1, C2

This course will examine issues in current affairs and the American press. Students will stay up-to-date on current events through a regular reading or viewing of the American news media, which will help them deepen their knowledge of topical issues. The way the press presents a story will be explored and discussed. Students will improve their writing and speaking skills by taking on the role of a journalist and creating news reports and articles.

Activities

Role-plays, discussions, debates and student presentations will give students an opportunity to perfect their oral communication skills, pronunciation, rhythm and intonation. Listening comprehension will be improved through viewing news clips and reports on online American news websites.

Students will be asked to present a news story and lead a discussion on it, and prepare one or more mock radio or TV news reports based on real news. They will study and analyze the style, register, techniques and vocabulary of the various different forms of the American press. Through creating their own news articles, students will learn to write more clearly and concisely.

Autonomy Work

Students will create mini-newspapers with campus and community events and happenings (clubs, people, local restaurant reviews, news, etc.), doing a full proofread and feedback of the text of the first draft using the Word review and comment tools.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on oral and written assignments. All students will need to write at least one original article for a grade. The presentation and news reports will also be evaluated. Active class participation will be very important.