

TEACHER'S CORNER – FEBRUARY 2017 JOURNALISM

In the United States, journalism is an important part of day-to-day life. In the United States, people expect journalists to follow the actions of the government and report it to the people. Journalists are so important that the work of the press is protected by the U.S. Constitution which states, "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of the press."

In this month's Teacher's Corner, we will explore the world of journalism and the job of reporters. Each week will provide students interesting and engaging opportunities to practice the basic skillset that all journalists have. Each of the activities included in this month's Teacher's Corner provide students practice in working with the '5 W and H' questions that serve as the foundation of journalism. Students will practice asking *Who? What? When? Where? Why?* and *How?* which serve as the center of any effective newspaper report.

Each activity this month provides students a context to practice asking questions and dig for information in order to create news stories about the people and places important to them.

Week 1 – The Inverted Pyramid

Week 2 – In the News

Week 3 – Celebrity Interview

Week 4 – What's the Scoop?

Week one begins the month with an activity centered on the Inverted Pyramid. The Inverted Pyramid is a style of writing used in many news articles; students will practice identifying the parts of the pyramid. Week two features an active-reading activity where students can practice identifying important questions in a news story. Week three encourages students to play the part of a reporter and conduct a celebrity interview. Finally, this month's Teacher's Corner concludes with students working to produce their own news radio broadcast.

For more on journalism and the media, check out the American English MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) for English Language Learners: [English for Journalism MOOC](#) and the [English for Media Literacy MOOC](#)!