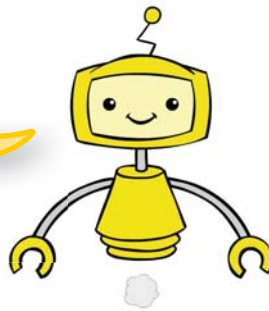


# Not the nine o'clock news!

Good morning! It's time for the news. In breaking news today, Peter and Anna are going to find out all about what it takes to be a news editor. Let's find out what skills they'll need in a newsroom!



## LINKS TO:

Stage 2, Module 11

Learning Object 2: Here is the news

## All the news that's fit to print

1

Most of us find out about national and international news events through news reporting on television, in newspapers and magazines or, increasingly, online. But who decides what's important enough to be reported, or what the headline news will be each day?

Most news services have an editor. In fact, most news services have several editors, each of whom is responsible for a particular type of news. There might be, for example, a political editor, an arts editor, and a sports editor.

An editor's job is to sift through the news and decide what is newsworthy. But how do editors make that decision?

Some of the rules that influence the news you receive are informal or unspoken. In Australia, as in many other countries, journalists are expected to abide by a code of ethics with four main principles\*:

- honesty
- fairness
- independence
- respect for the rights of others.

In most countries, there are also regulations about what can be included in a news broadcast. These include laws about people's right to personal privacy, official secrets, and reporting on the names and facts of criminal and civil lawsuits.

\*Source: Australian Journalists Association and the Media Alliance Code of Ethics.

## Making decisions

What's newsworthy to one editor may seem unimportant to another. Or even unreportable. What is considered newsworthy can change depending on a range of things, including:

- the **medium**: print, radio, TV, or online reporting
- the **target audience** for the news service. This is sometimes called the 'demographic'. It includes things like the age, gender, income level and ethnicity of the audience.
- the **political and cultural climate** of the country it is produced in, including such things as what has been an ongoing area of interest in recent times, or what the news broadcaster considers to be in the public interest. News is also influenced by government decisions and announcements, as well as legislation about information sharing, such as censorship and defamation laws.
- **who funds or owns the news service** can influence a program in a range of ways. News services may be funded through advertising, government funding, or by individuals. Some news broadcasters are funded by a mixture of government and private sources. If a program is funded by advertising, the advertisers may have an influence on the news.

Under the 'New Order' government of President Suharto, the state-owned television network TVRI broadcast *Dunia Dalam Berita (World In News)* every evening at 21.00. As the name implies, this program covered both international and national news. During the New Order era, from 13 November 1988 to 31 July 2000, all Indonesian private TV stations (RCTI, SCTV, TPI, ANteve and Indosiar) were required to relay this news program. As the mouthpiece of the New Order government, this service did not report any news that would have been deemed inappropriate by the government, or which may have affected the country's political, social and economic stability.

In the post-Suharto era of *reformasi*, the stated role of TVRI has become one of serving the public interest, by being neutral, independent and non-commercial. Government Regulation Number 13 of 2005 stipulates that TVRI's role is to provide information, education and wholesome entertainment. It must contribute to social cohesiveness by preserving the national culture through its broadcasting, which covers the whole territory and reaches 82 per cent of Indonesia's population.

TVRI still provides a news service three times a day through its *Warta Pagi*, *Warta Siang* and *Warta Malam-Warta Dunia* programs, but other networks are no longer compelled to relay these news services. In modern, urban Indonesia, consumers are more likely to tune into a 24-hour news channel, such as *METROTV*, to obtain the latest news. Most of Indonesia's other commercial television networks offer no news programming. However, the role of TVRI cannot be underestimated, with its programming and news services reaching areas of the country where commercial services are unavailable.

TVRI's 19.00 *Warta Malam-Warta Dunia* is presented by a male and a female presenter, dressed in formal suits, or traditional Muslim attire during certain parts of the religious

calendar. They report news using formal language and a serious tone. Although the newsreaders mostly read the news from a teleprompter, they sometimes refer to notes on a clipboard when the news involves live crossovers to reporters on site.

When there is a serious breaking news story, such as an aircraft accident, the story tends to occupy much of the program with several unedited time-filling crossovers to the scene of the accident.

As mentioned in Module 11, Work Sheet 2, *I've got a scoop*, the government, through the *Departemen Komunikasi Dan Informatika*, exercises influence over the content of stories from all media outlets. Information that is deemed to disturb public order, to threaten state unity or be harmful to the country's political and economic interests is censored. Despite such controls the openness of modern technology such as the Internet has ensured an unrestricted flow of information. Authorities have also reported that there are more than 2000 illegal or unlicensed television and radio stations operating in Indonesia.

By 2011, Indonesia had\*:

- 10 national television networks
- 52 local television channels
- 10 pay-television providers
- 1800-plus radio stations
- 13 online news portals
- 39 newspapers
- 7.13 million households with premium digital TV
- 39.6 million Internet users
- 38.86 million Facebook subscribers.

\*Source: *Knol, A unit of knowledge*, 'Information dissemination development in Indonesia'.

### Exercise 1

In Module 11, Learning Object 2, *Here is the news*, Peter pretended to be a newsreader at the iCafe. He also acted as his own news editor, deciding what to include in his broadcast. Now it's your turn to decide what's newsworthy by designing your own Australian news program!

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First, you'll need to consider what kind of television news show you are going to edit. Will your news program be local, state-wide, national or international? Who will be your audience? Who will fund your news program? Let's compare some different models so that you can make a better decision about what kind of news program you'll be editing.

**1.1 Research the Australian national broadcaster (the ABC) and then fill in the table below with the things that may affect an ABC news editor's decisions about what to broadcast.**

ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)	
Who is the target audience?	
How is the news program funded?	
What else might influence your editorial decisions?	

**1.2** There are all kinds of different types of news. Some of the major types include:

- local, state, national and international news
- politics (local, national and international)
- general news (war, crime, accidents, natural disasters, and so on)
- arts and entertainment (books, movies, theatre and other arts, including news about celebrities)
- human interest ('feel-good' or comic stories, such as stories about firemen rescuing cats stuck in trees)

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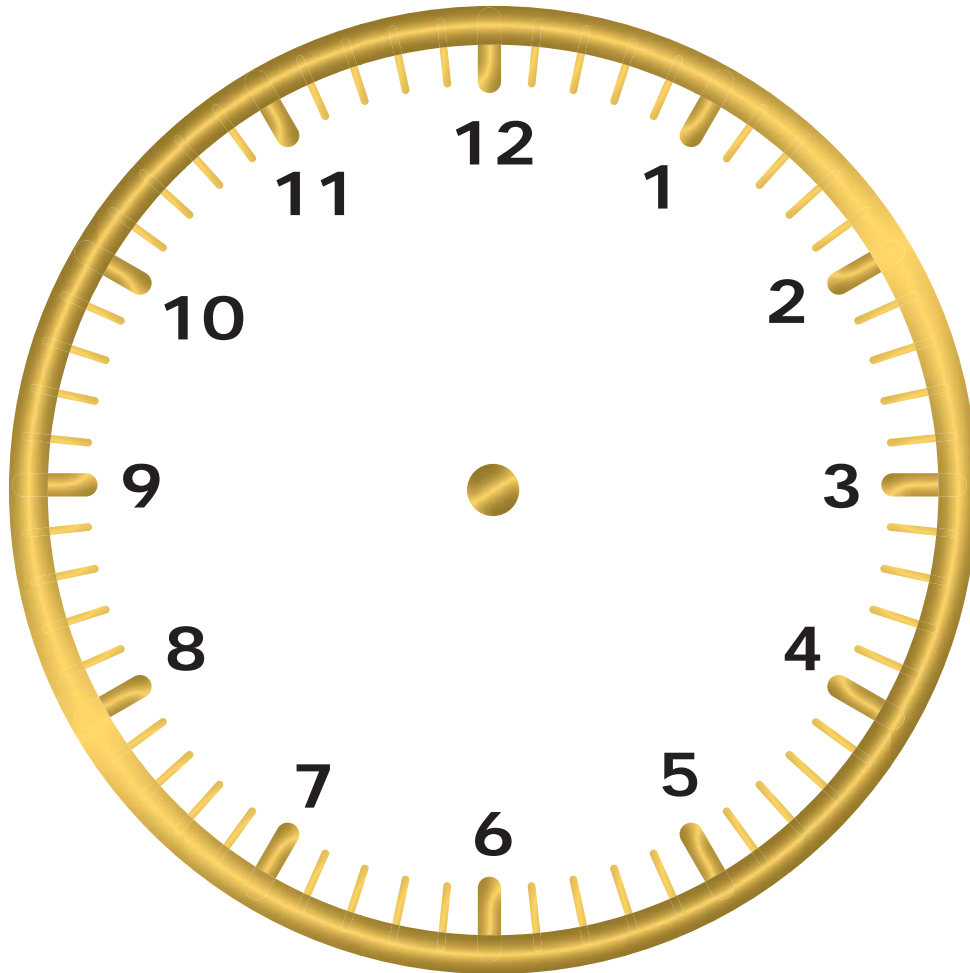


**1.4 Give your news program an appropriate or catchy title.**

**Using the planning and development work you have completed in Exercise 1.2, divide up the clock below to graphically illustrate the amount of time your one-hour news program will spend on each type of news.**

If your news program is partly or wholly funded through advertising, you will need to include time for advertisements in your program clock!

**News program title:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Exercise 2** \_\_\_\_\_

After all your successes as editor of an Australian news program, you've been asked to set up a similar program in Indonesia.

Complete the table and clock as you did for the Australian program, but this time for your Indonesian news program.

You may need to do some research about news programs in Indonesia.

**2.1 Complete the table, including information about the target audience, funding and other considerations for your Indonesian news program.**

National broadcaster (in Indonesia this is the TVRI)	
Who is the target audience?	
How is the news program funded?	
What else might influence your editorial decisions?	

**2.2 Based on your answer to Exercise 2.1, decide which of the types of news you are going to include in your news program, and how much emphasis, or time, you will allocate to that news type. Give reasons for your decisions.**

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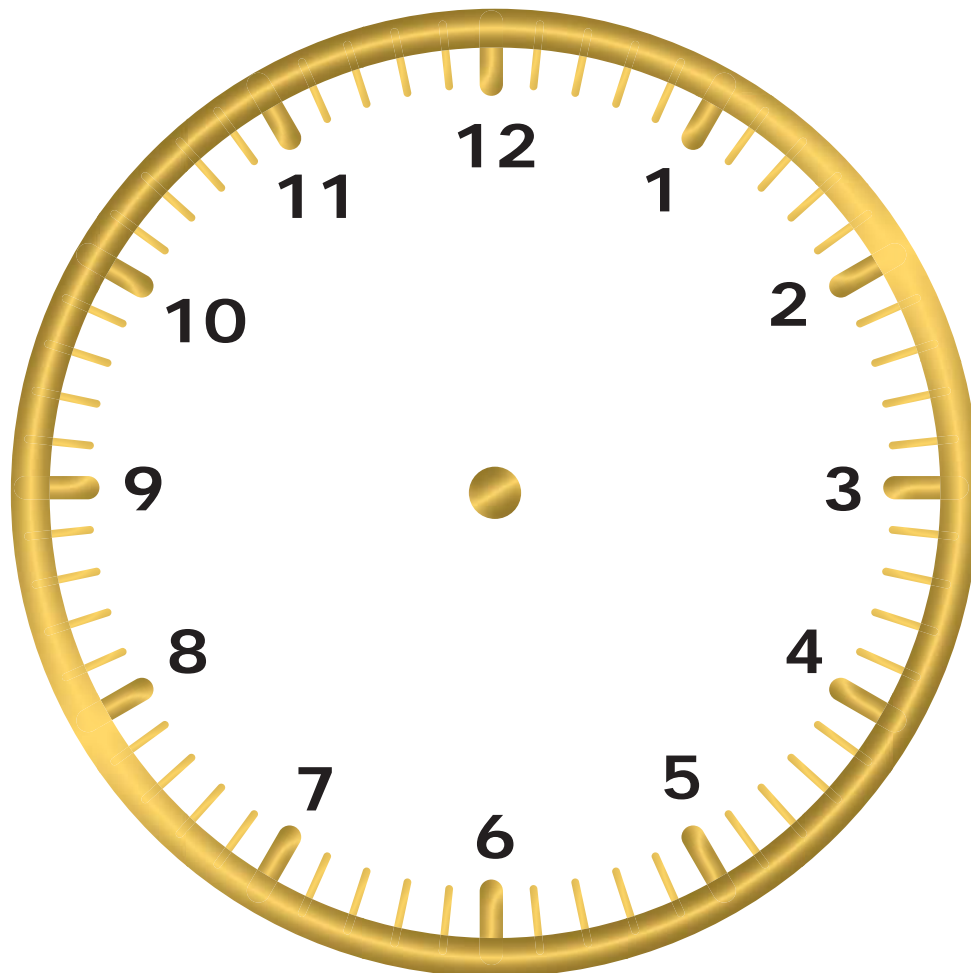
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2.3 Give your Indonesian news program a title. Complete the clock showing what you will include in your program.

News program title: \_\_\_\_\_



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**You have decided to use the story about a new, national homework policy for your Australian news program.**

**Here is your lead story in English below:**

In breaking news, the Minister for Education has announced a new national framework for school homework. The new framework recommends that individual schools be responsible for setting homework policies for their students, in consultation with the school community, particularly parents.

This policy is in response to growing concern in the community about increasing pressure on students to do well at school, and also on encouraging students to make more time for exercise and sporting interests.

The Minister said, 'Each school is part of a community, with different needs and expectations. Individual schools are in the best position to make decisions about what is an appropriate homework policy for their students'.

He added, 'Schools and teachers need to be empowered to make local decisions for local students.'

The Minister stated that the framework had been designed in consultation with student representative and advocacy groups, parents and citizens groups, and professional educators. The Minister reiterated at the press conference:

*[cut to video of Minister at press conference]*

'This framework has been put in place after extensive research and consultation. It is envisaged that the new framework will empower schools and parents to make decisions about homework as part of a broader plan for ensuring their students meet the national and international standards expected of them. The new framework reflects a growing interest in holistic approaches to education.'

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Here is your lead story in Indonesian:

Kementrian Pendidikan Nasional mengadakan jumpa pers siang ini untuk mengumumkan sebuah kebijakan nasional baru berkenaan dengan banyaknya pekerjaan rumah yang diberikan untuk anak-anak sekolah.

Sebagai tanggapan atas meningkatnya kekhawatiran mengenai adanya keharusan bagi siswa untuk masuk universitas top dan adanya kebutuhan bagi generasi muda untuk mengembangkan minat ekstra kurikuler yang beragam, kebijakan baru ini menentukan bahwa sekolah hanya diperbolehkan memberikan pekerjaan rumah yang bertujuan sebagai revisi dari pekerjaan yang sudah dibahas di dalam kelas.

'Penelitian jelas menunjukkan bahwa revisi selama 10 sampai 15 menit dari pekerjaan yang sudah dibahas di dalam kelas lebih efektif untuk membantu siswa mengingat ilmu yang mereka dapat daripada membebani siswa dengan pekerjaan rumah yang berjam-jam lamanya,' kata Mendiknas. Dia menambahkan bahwa, 'Sekolah dan guru perlu mengemas ulang pekerjaan rumah sebagai sebuah revisi. Dalam sehari, di mana siswa belajar 5 mata pelajaran, mereka harus mendapat tidak lebih dari 50 sampai 75 menit waktu revisi setiap hari. Selain itu, tidak seharusnya ada revisi pada akhir minggu.'

Kementrian juga menganjurkan bahwa orangtua tidak berusaha untuk mengelak kebijakan baru ini dengan mendaftarkan anak-anak mereka dalam kegiatan 'intelektual' di luar jam sekolah atau dengan memberikan tambahan pekerjaan rumah sendiri.

Mendiknas selanjutnya mengatakan bahwa kebijakan ini dibuat sesuai dengan hasil survei yang dilakukan oleh guru, orangtua dan siswa di beberapa kota besar dan kecil di seluruh Indonesia. Periode uji coba kebijakan ini akan dimulai pada awal tahun ajaran baru yaitu tanggal 1 Juli. Umpan balik dan masukan akan dikumpulkan dan didiskusikan pada akhir Semester 1 sebelum keputusan untuk menerapkan kebijakan ini atau tidak akan diambil.

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