

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM DISCUSSION AND DEBATE

THE PATH TO 9/11

The role of news media is to provide information to the public. There are many ways that media outlets disseminate information. Some provide commentary with the news, others only offer a single perspective, and some try to be balanced in their presentation. In order for you to gain the most from all types of media, you must be aware of what you are reading, listening to, and watching.

Viewing Activity

In groups of three or four, research a news article (either print or online). Record three main facts from the piece. Then, listen to a news radio station for information about the same event. Finally, watch a television news program to see how reporters cover the story. For each type of media, have each member of the group write the important facts that are presented. After you have finished, answer the following questions individually.

1. What information did all three types of media present?
What information did only some present?
2. Was one type of media more effective than the others?
Why or why not?
3. Which medium do you think was the most truthful?
Which was the least honest?
4. What lifestyles, values, and points of view did each medium seem to represent?
5. How might people from different backgrounds view the stories you saw and heard?
6. Did this activity influence the way in which you look at the news? Why or why not?



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Be sure to watch *The Path to 9/11* beginning on Sunday, September 10, 8-11 P.M. E.T.
and concluding on Monday, September 11, 8-10 P.M. E.T.