

Newsbreakers television show guidelines and rules

Newsbreakers: the first name in breaking the truth behind the news!

Name:

Date:

Instructions:

In your groups, you are to put together a 5-10 minute **Newsbreakers** segment on the topic of _____ . Each group will select one member to be their guest interviewee, a polarizing figure with very strong beliefs who is very vocal about their position. This guest interviewee will be required to show up *in character*, and to hold fast- idiously to their character’s positions, beliefs, and rhetoric, all of which is to be well-researched. The interviewee is free to say whatever they want – including to tell outright lies – to support their character’s position. The interviewee must keep secret their planned responses from the **Newsbreakers** team; the interviewee will have prepared much of their work independently for this assignment!

Another one of you will be the **Newsbreakers** host, the on-air persona who breaks news stories, interviews guests, asks tough questions, and exposes the truth to the world. The **Newsbreakers** host must come prepared by being well-informed on the topic of the interview, about the facts and evidence concerning it, about their guest interviewee, and with a memorized list of questions they intend to ask. No paper, index cards, or other written resources are available to either the host or the interviewee.

The rest of you will be the **Newsbreakers** team: a team of researchers that helps gather information for both the host and the guest interviewee, but that also serves as the host’s greatest resource during the show. The team will have access to computer(s)/iPad(s) with the internet *during the interview*, and will have a live microphone that is fed directly into the host’s ear, so they can check facts, find information and quotes, and help the host use truth to fight misinformation. Use all that you’ve learned about gathering information on the internet using Trapit to build repositories of information that you can access at a moment’s notice to best inform your host with quotes and reputable sources as the interview unfolds.

The goal of all parties will be to convince the audience (the rest of your class and your teacher) that your position is the most accurate, truthful and otherwise convincing as respects this topic.



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Criteria for grading:

* The **host** is responsible for introducing the topic and the guest interviewee, providing a brief background to the story and a 15-30 second bio of the interviewee. A successful introduction of the issue and an accurate, congenial introduction of the guest is a required component. The host is responsible for responding to the guest, keeping the discussion lively and interesting, and for exposing the truth behind the topic being discussed to the audience.

* The **interviewee** is responsible for appearing in-character and for only making statements consistent with something their character would actually say. After the conclusion of the interview, the interviewee must justify anything they said by arguing why their character would have said it. (The interviewee's assignment will require a significant amount of independent work, apart from the rest of the news team.)

* The **news team** is responsible for providing quality, factual information to supply to the host, including catching any lies that the interviewee tells and providing counter-arguments / statistics / information to the host in a timely fashion. While the host is responsible for presenting the truth to the audience, the news team is responsible for gathering and feeding that information to the host! The news team is also responsible for – after the conclusion of the interview – answering any questions about sources and reliability of the information they provided to the host.

* At the conclusion of the segment, the audience (all the class members not from the current group) must vote as to who was most convincing: the host or the interviewee. If the majority vote is for the host, everyone (the host, the guest, and the news team) will receive the same grade based on how well they did during the **Newsbreakers** segment. However, if the majority vote is for the interviewee, the interviewee will receive a *100% for the assignment* regardless of how the rest of the group does. (**Optional:** instead of public voting followed by a discussion, voting can be done by secret ballot, with instructor-supplied questions for further assessment.)

