



Analysing an Issue A How-To Guide Units 1-2 CHC2D

Here are some useful guidelines to keep in mind when analysing information in an article

1. Read the article first to gain a general understanding of its message.
2. What is the purpose of this article?
 - to provide information
 - to influence
 - to entertain
3. Who wrote the article? Do you know if the writer is connected to the issue?
4. Read the article again and underline any real facts (not opinions) in a bright colour.
5. In another colour, underline any words or terms that are new to you, and that you need to investigate for meaning. Transfer them to your notebook and write a definition for them – use a dictionary or ask someone what they mean.



6. Conduct a “Who? What? Where? When? Why?” analysis, taking information from the article and writing the answers in your notebook.
 - **Who?** List the main “players” people or groups involved in the issue. Are all the people involved in the issue represented in the article? Is there a missing point of view?
 - **What?** What is the issue? What is the position of each of the main players? Write main points beside each of the “players” in your list.
 - **Where?** Where did the story take place? Are there other important locations involved in the issue?
 - **When?** When did this story take place? Is time an important factor in the story?
 - **Why?** Why is it an issue?
7. What is the main message of this article?
8. Do you have enough information to form your own opinion on the issue? If not, where would you look to find more?
9. How does this issue affect you? If it is not a concern in your area, how might it affect a student living nearby? How might this issue affect us all?
10. Research other sources such as newspapers, the Internet, or television news stories, to see if other media outlets have also dealt with the issue. Are there differences or similarities among the different stories? (**Cross-referencing**)