

# "In Aviation News . . ."

<b>PURPOSE</b>	Students experience aviation history firsthand, practice writing skills, do a little acting, and have a lot of fun!
<b>TASK</b>	The class, working in small groups compiles a news program that covers a year in aviation history.
<b>SUPPLIES</b>	Reference materials, writing supplies, art supplies for visuals and to make costumes, video camera and television (if news won't be "broadcast" live).
<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Introduce students to the history of aviation (if students are older, have them do a little research on important people or events in aviation history, then have them present their findings to the class).</li><li>2. As a class, pick the year (or decade) you want to focus on in your news program.</li><li>3. Discuss television news programs. How long are they? What topics do they cover? How do they present their information? Brainstorm the elements of a news show (e.g., "headline" items, human interest stories, sports, weather, entertainment, and--of course--commercials). If possible, watch part of a local newscast and identify its parts. Split the class into groups of two or three and either assign or let each group choose what segment of the show they will be responsible for. Tell each group they will have to fill (and not overfill) a certain amount of time, to be determined by how long you want the whole program to be.</li><li>4. Take a trip to the school library and have students research to find information for their segment. Make sure they stick to events that happened in the year or decade your news program will focus on.</li><li>5. Over the next week or so, give students time in class to research and write their segment. Have them write a script and practice presenting it. Also have them begin collecting and bringing in materials they and other students will use during the broadcast (someone may need to be assigned to be the propmaster--someone who can make sure props and costumes look authentic for the period or year your news program is from--this will require some research into fashion). They should also create any visual aids they want to use. Don't forget a logo for the program!</li><li>6. Before the broadcast, have the class determine the order in which their segments will be presented. Write this order down and remind students of their time limits. As the "director," you will let them know if their time runs out. If the news is "live," tell them they must stick to their script and the schedule. If the broadcast is going to be recorded one segment at a time, you might allow everyone two takes. (Another option is to let students tape their segments outside of class and have someone edit them all together into one show.)</li></ol>

7. Broadcast your news. Have an in-class rehearsal of the program so students can enjoy their classmates' efforts, then take your show on the road to another class so these aviation experts can share their knowledge with others. (It might be fun to present the show for parents as well.) If the program is "pre-recorded," present the finished project to your class, then share it with others.

**TIPS:**

- If students are struggling for topics, remind them that interviews are always good.
- Rather than just focusing on one topic, each group should cover several items, spending only a minute or so on each.
- Remind students that the news broadcast is taking place during the year they have chosen. Students should dress, speak, and behave accordingly!
- If students point out that TV didn't exist during the year you've chosen, discuss movie newsreels and radio news programs. If you want to be truly authentic, you could forgo the broadcast altogether and publish an aviation newspaper instead. In this case, segments would become articles and students would be reporters rather than anchors and actors. "Publish" your newspaper and distribute it around the school.
- Instead of aviation news, a class could focus on a year in spaceflight history. Or, instead of focusing on history, students could use their imaginations to create a futuristic broadcast of "Aviation 2010" or "Space 2050."