INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

Write a breaking-news update

50 minutes, including 30 minutes of live wires. Students work in pairs and hand in two versions of the same short report.

Learning outcomes

- Write an accurate headline and opening using the information available at a given time.
- Distinguish a new fact, a correction and a claim that needs attribution.
- Explain what changed between versions and why.

Set up the newsroom

In the simulation wizard, choose a 30-minute exercise and enable Newswire only. Keep one developing story with an opening report and at least two follow-ups. Add one or two other stories so students have to find the right dispatch. In **Private rehearsal**, check that the first report is available near the start and that a significant follow-up appears after the first writing deadline. Adjust the deadlines below to match the material you select.

Share the student newsroom link and password. Tell pairs which story to follow, and ask them to hand in both versions in a single document or on paper.

Run the lesson

1. **0-8 minutes.** Explain the difference between a confirmed detail and a claim attributed to a source.
2. **8-18 minutes.** Start the feeds. Pairs write and save their first headline and opening.
3. **18-38 minutes.** Pairs watch for a follow-up and write a second version. Ask them to keep the first version for comparison.
4. **38-50 minutes.** Compare two revised openings. Ask why a particular fact was moved up, removed or attributed.

STUDENT BRIEF

Update the same report as news arrives

1. Open **Wires** and find the story your instructor assigned. Note the agency and time of the first dispatch you use.
2. Write a headline and a 35-50-word opening paragraph. Save this as **Version 1**.
3. Read the follow-up and mark one detail that changed. Check who supplied it and whether the dispatch treats it as confirmed.
4. Write **Version 2**. Put the most important verified development first and attribute any claim that needs a source.

Hand in

Submit both headlines and opening paragraphs, the agency and time of each dispatch, and two sentences explaining your most important change.