

Environmental Health in the News

In this activity, you will answer the following questions in order to compare and contrast how articles from two different print media cover the same environmental health issue.

Questions to Answer

1. What aspect of the environmental health issue does each article address?
2. How does each article convey the subject matter to the reader?
3. How does each article link the environmental issue to specific health problems?
4. Does each article include comments from environmental health experts, scientists, physicians, and/or politicians?
5. Can you detect any bias in either article?
6. Do the articles provide relevant information about how the issue affects a specific community?
7. Do the articles provide a regional or global perspective on the issue?
8. In your opinion, which source provides better coverage of the issue? Why?

ACTIVITY

Think of a specific environmental health issue. Then, locate articles in two different types of print media that pertain to this topic. You can choose from your local newspaper; a major city newspaper, such as the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*; or a national news magazine, such as *Time* or *Newsweek*. Write an analysis of how these two different sources cover the same topic. Use the answers to the questions above to guide your analysis.

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS

Healthy People 2010 has a number of goals that relate to environmental health issues that affect all Americans. Review these goals, and write a position paper that suggests how the media sources you analyzed have played or can play a role in helping reach the goals.