

Preliminary English Studies

Unit: Telling us all about it: English and the Media

Donald Trump's Phone Call with Hillary Clinton:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONRQZshyrPI>

Discussion Question: What is the purpose of this clip?



What are we doing here?!

Rubric from the English Studies Syllabus

Through the study of the module, *Telling us all about it: English and the media*, students develop a deeper understanding of the ways language is used to report on news and current affairs issues in various media forms, such as television news programs, documentary programs, news bulletins, updates, television infotainment shows, newspapers, current affairs magazines and news websites. Students further develop practical competence in the use of language by extending their skills in writing media texts such as news reports and feature articles. They have the opportunity to further develop and express their own views, ideas and values in relation to questions that are relevant to them and that are under media scrutiny.

Students will also have the opportunity to experience, engage with and critique literary texts that, through an imaginative use of language, raise questions of ethics and the powerful influence of the media both on individual lives and on a national and international scale. Texts may include longer works such as novels, films, television series and plays. Through engaging with a range of literary texts in both written and electronic forms, students will extend their skills in comprehending and responding to texts and their abilities to use language expressively and imaginatively.

Key concepts

Through their study in this unit, students will learn about:

- the ways language is used to report on news and current affairs issues
- the use of technology in the media to shape meaning, values, attitudes and perspectives
- media ethics and values.

Definition of media: the means of communication, such as newspapers, that reach or influence people widely.

Discussion questions:

1. What types of media do you know? Create a mind-map.
2. For each type of media, list the following:
 - Target audience
 - Language choices
 - Content
 - Perspective
3. What role does the media play in society?
4. What are some moral and ethic issues that may relate to the media?



Media Alliance Code of Ethics

Respect for truth and the public's right to information are fundamental principles of journalism. Journalists describe society to itself. They convey information, ideas and opinions, a privileged role. They search, disclose, record, question, entertain, suggest and remember. They inform citizens and animate democracy. They give a practical form to freedom of expression. Many journalists work in private enterprise, but all have these public responsibilities. They scrutinise power, but also exercise it, and should be accountable. Accountability engenders trust. Without trust, journalists do not fulfil their public responsibilities. Alliance members engaged in journalism commit themselves to:

Honesty

Fairness

Independence

Respect for the rights of others

1. Report and interpret honestly, striving for accuracy, fairness and disclosure of all essential facts. Do not suppress relevant available facts, or give distorting emphasis. Do your utmost to give a fair opportunity for reply.
2. Do not place unnecessary emphasis on personal characteristics, including race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, family relationships, religious belief, or physical or intellectual disability.
3. Aim to attribute information to its source. Where a source seeks anonymity, do not agree without first considering the source's motives and any alternative attributable source. Where confidences are accepted, respect them in all circumstances.
4. Do not allow personal interest, or any belief, commitment, payment, gift or benefit, to undermine your accuracy, fairness or independence.
5. Disclose conflicts of interest that affect, or could be seen to affect, the accuracy, fairness or independence of your journalism. Do not improperly use a journalistic position for personal gain.
6. Do not allow advertising or other commercial considerations to undermine accuracy, fairness or independence.
7. Do your utmost to ensure disclosure of any direct or indirect payment made for interviews, pictures, information or stories.
8. Use fair, responsible and honest means to obtain material. Identify yourself and your employer before obtaining any interview for publication or broadcast. Never exploit a person's vulnerability or ignorance of media practice.
9. Present pictures and sound which are true and accurate. Any manipulation likely to mislead should be disclosed.
10. Do not plagiarise.
11. Respect private grief and personal privacy. Journalists have the right to resist compulsion to intrude.
12. Do your utmost to achieve fair correction of errors.

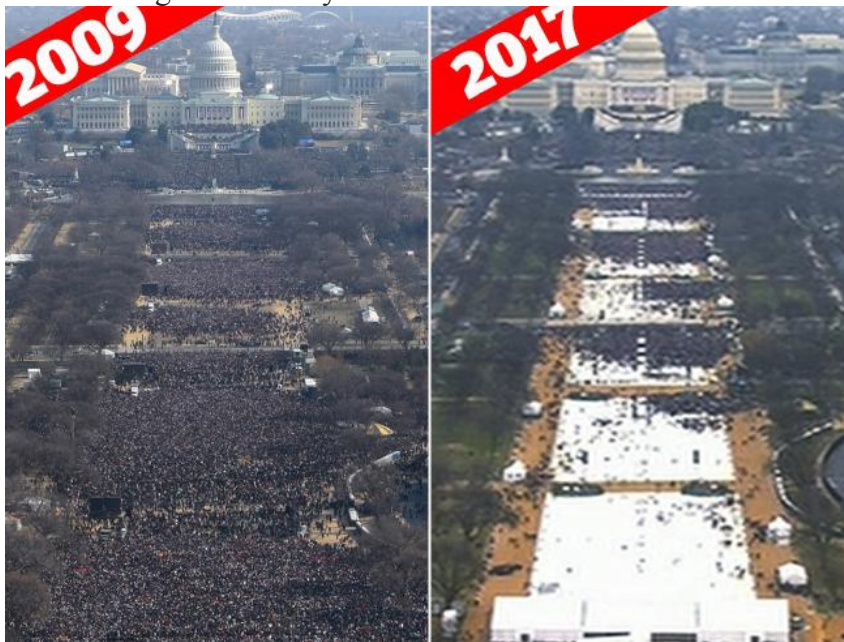
Trump supporters claim ‘fake news’ over crowd size

JANUARY 24, 2017 9:56AM

IS THE widely circulated image comparing Donald Trump’s inauguration with Barack Obama’s in 2009 “fake news”?

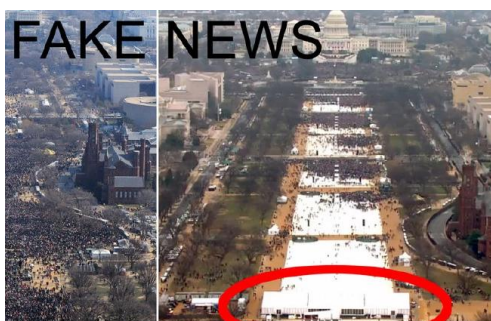
It is, according to supporters of the now US President, who claim the right-hand image in the comparison, released by the Associated Press, was taken hours before the actual ceremony. According to AP, both images were taken “shortly before noon” from the top of the Washington Monument.

But Trump supporters claim [CNN’s ultra hi-res “gigapixel” photo](#), taken from behind the President during his inaugural address, shows clear discrepancies from the overhead shot which shows large areas of white space. Here is the image released by AP:



Picture: AP Source: AP

And here is the version being circulated by Trump supporters:



THE SAME BUILDING



It comes amid heated debate over the size of the crowd at Mr Trump's inauguration as the 45th President of the United States.

In 2009, an estimated 1.8 million people flooded the National Mall area in 2009 when Barack Obama was first sworn in as president, according to federal and local agencies at the time. Mr Trump claimed he drew a crowd of up to 1.5 million people — a figure widely disputed by US media outlets. Washington authorities reportedly predicted 800,000 to 900,000 would attend Trump's inauguration Friday, about half of the 2009 crowd.

"I made a speech. I looked out, the field was, it looked like a million, million-and-a-half people," he told CIA staff at Langley, Virginia on Saturday. "They showed a field where there were practically nobody standing there. And they said, Donald Trump did not draw well."

Mr Trump said one network estimated the turnout at 250,000. "Now, that's not bad. But it's a lie," he said. "So we caught them and we caught them in a beauty and I think they're going to pay a big price." White House press secretary Sean Spicer used his first press conference to attack the media over the crowd size claims, blasting assembled journalists for their "deliberately false reporting". "These attempts to lessen the enthusiasm of the inauguration are shameful and wrong," Mr Spicer said. Users on Reddit's 340,000-strong Donald Trump fan community claimed the CNN image was "proof" the original image was "fake news", and also accused PBS of editing its time lapse video to "intentionally cut the footage which shows the biggest crowd".

"I was in the National Mall area, got in about 5-10 minutes before 12pm," wrote user MotorBoatMyGoats. "The place was a mad house, and was so much more full than the Fake News photos show it to be. Not to mention the maybe 100,000 people who were still waiting on the streets to get into the National Mall area.

"The difference now is we have a Republican president who won't sit back and take abuse from the liberal media. Bush never combated the media's lies like Trump will."

They also pointed out that many people were prevented from entering security checkpoints by Black Lives Matter and Disrupt J20 protesters.

"Generally speaking, most intellectually honest political followers/researchers already anticipated a massive amount of DC-based hostility in all things related to President Trump," the Conservative Treehouse blog wrote.

"After all, Hillary Clinton won the DC vote with 91 per cent, and only 4 per cent of DC residents supported Donald Trump.

"Despite the shenanigans Sean Spicer was correct. The crowd grew significantly just as the event began. Yes, this was mostly due to the crowd being intentionally delayed from attending. Yes, tens of thousands of people could not get through the screenings. Yes, the federal workers and DC Park and Security leadership made attendance more difficult than any previous inauguration.

Yes, every imaginable tool and technique was utilized last week to provide the maximum level of crisis and discomfort. And yet, given the history of DC doing this with other events, this somehow surprises people?"

Trump Article VS Media Alliance Code of Ethics

How do the following statements apply to the newspaper article 'Trump Supporters Claim "fake" news over crowd size?

1. Report and interpret honestly, striving for accuracy, fairness and disclosure of all essential facts. Do not suppress relevant available facts, or give distorting emphasis. Do your utmost to give a fair opportunity for reply.

YES NO UNSURE

2. Do not place unnecessary emphasis on personal characteristics, including race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, family relationships, religious belief, or physical or intellectual disability.

YES NO UNSURE

3. Aim to attribute information to its source. Where a source seeks anonymity, do not agree without first considering the source's motives and any alternative attributable source. Where confidences are accepted, respect them in all circumstances.

YES NO UNSURE

4. Do not allow personal interest, or any belief, commitment, payment, gift or benefit, to undermine your accuracy, fairness or independence.

YES NO UNSURE

5. Disclose conflicts of interest that affect, or could be seen to affect, the accuracy, fairness or independence of your journalism. Do not improperly use a journalistic position for personal gain.

YES NO UNSURE

6. Do not allow advertising or other commercial considerations to undermine accuracy, fairness or independence.

YES NO UNSURE

7. Do your utmost to ensure disclosure of any direct or indirect payment made for interviews, pictures, information or stories.

YES NO UNSURE

8. Use fair, responsible and honest means to obtain material. Identify yourself and your employer before obtaining any interview for publication or broadcast. Never exploit a person's vulnerability or ignorance of media practice.

YES NO UNSURE

9. Present pictures and sound which are true and accurate. Any manipulation likely to mislead should be disclosed.

YES NO UNSURE

10. Do not plagiarise.

YES NO UNSURE

11. Respect private grief and personal privacy. Journalists have the right to resist compulsion to intrude.

YES NO UNSURE

12. Do your utmost to achieve fair correction of errors.

YES NO UNSURE