

Creating a Newsreel

Work with your group to create a newsreel that you will act out in front of the class. Your newsreel should highlight the impact of World War II on your assigned group. It should describe the kinds of opportunities and/or hardships World War II created for this group of Americans.

Step 1: Assign roles. Review the roles and divide them up among the members of your group. Make sure everyone understands her or his responsibilities. Everyone will participate in the newsreel.

Chief Researcher: You will lead the group during Step 2. Make sure all group members learn the key content about your topic. Help brainstorm ideas for the script and participate in the newsreel.

Lead Story Director: You will lead the group during Step 3. Help brainstorm ideas for the script and participate in the newsreel.

Human Interest Director: You will lead the group during Step 4. Help brainstorm ideas for the script and participate in the newsreel.

Producer: You will lead the group during Steps 5 and 6. Help brainstorm ideas for the script and participate in the newsreel.

Step 2: Read the section in the Lesson for the topic assigned to you. Then complete the corresponding Reading Notes. The Chief Researcher is responsible for making sure all group members can complete the Reading Notes for your section.

Step 3: Brainstorm ideas for a two- to three-minute lead story. The Lead Story Director will lead a group brainstorm about this segment. The lead story must include

- examples of at least four opportunities or hardships experienced by the group during World War II.
- all Vocabulary Terms in your section.
- both sources from Handout B.
- at least one prop.

After you have determined the content for this segment, decide which two students will be the wartime news correspondents. They will deliver the lead story “live” from a “remote” location. Each correspondent must incorporate one source into his or her broadcast. If one source is an audio recording, be sure to preview it first to make sure it will be played at the appropriate time during the broadcast.

Step 4: Brainstorm ideas for a two- to three-minute human interest story. The Human Interest Director will lead a group brainstorm about this segment. The human interest story must include

- an on-scene interview with an individual who was directly affected by the war.
- questions about the background and experiences of the featured individual.
- at least one prop.

After you have determined the content for this segment, determine which two students will be the on-scene reporter and the interviewee.

Step 5: Write the scripts for the lead and human interest stories and gather props. The Producer should review both scripts and make sure the props enhance the newsreel.

Step 6: The Producer should lead the group in rehearsing the newsreel. As you rehearse, the Producer should make sure that

- everyone is actively involved in the newsreel.
- everyone speaks loudly and clearly.
- the props are well integrated.
- the group of Americans is identified at the beginning of the newsreel.