



Sensations Webinars for E N G L I S H Teachers

February



Gerald Smith

Language
teacher and
journalist

Students as journalists in English language classrooms

All attendees will receive a certificate of attendance and slides via email link 24 hours after the webinar.



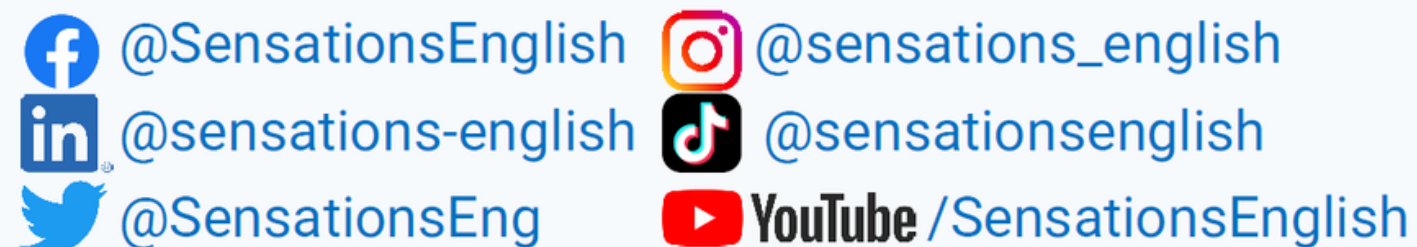
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monthly

**Webinars
for teachers**

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We will explore how to:

- engage learners through news
- use journalistic activities to scaffold development
- support critical thinking
- focus on learning through student-generated content

23rd February • 2pm UK time



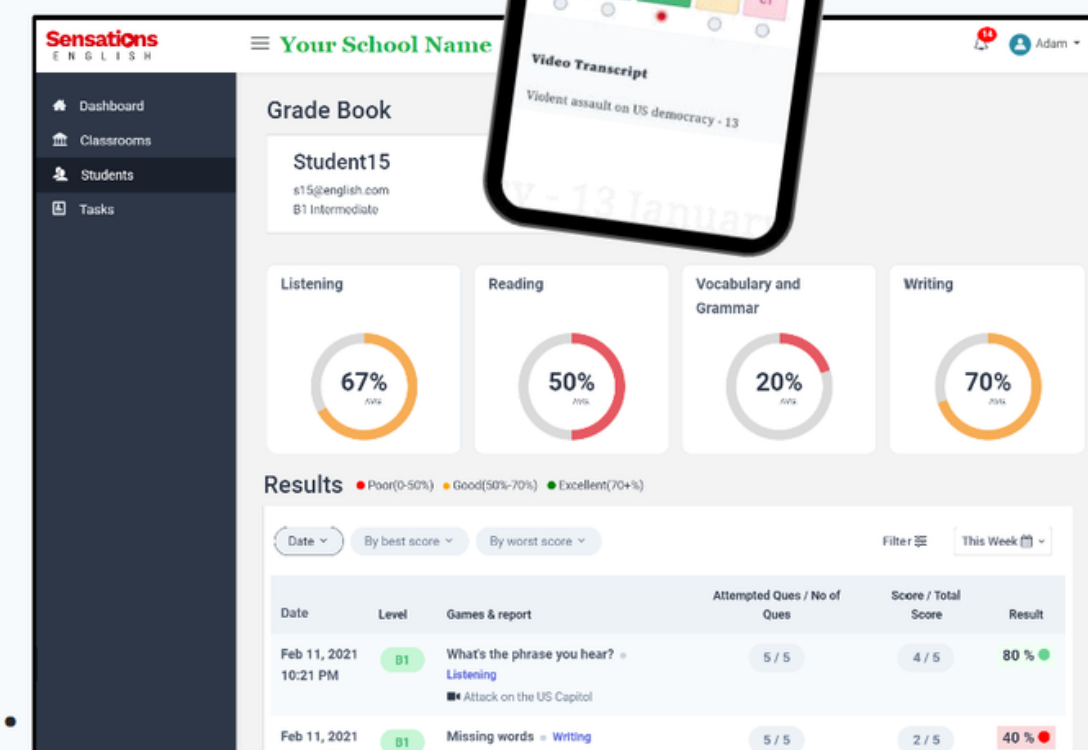
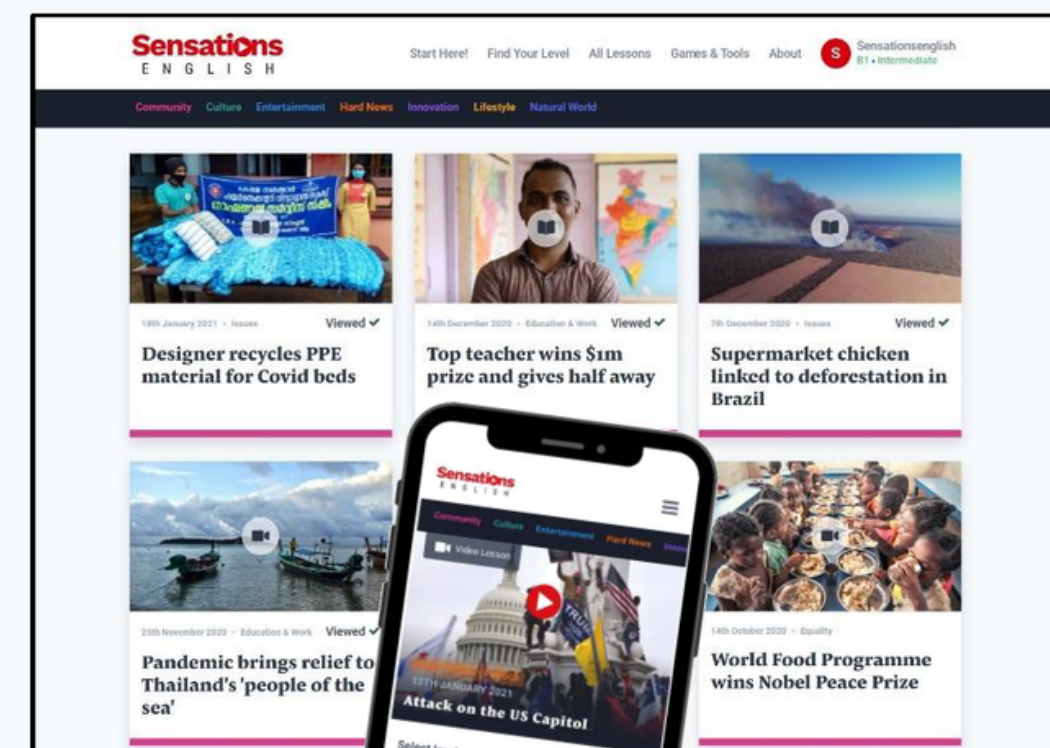
What is Sensations English?

- hundreds of video lessons all graded at 5 levels
- ready-made learning activities for each resource
- accessible and hassle-free video
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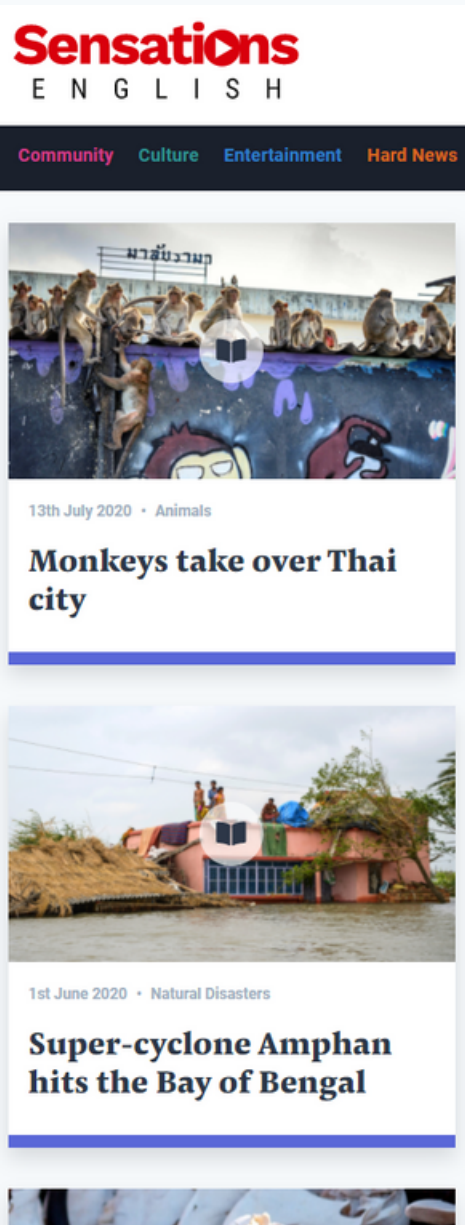
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Contents slide



1. Why use news stories in class?
2. What do journalists do?
3. Setting up productive skills tasks
4. Creating headlines
5. Interview a partner / expert
6. News reports
7. Feedback / reviewing student materials





News stories in an English class

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Question:

Why use news stories in a language class?

Answer on Mentimeter!



Go to www.menti.com and use the code 1149 2927



News Stories in an English class

News stories can be used for...

establishing a lesson's context

grabbing students' attention

helping students express their opinions

receptive skills tasks (reading / listening)

language focus tasks (grammar / vocabulary)

productive skills tasks (speaking / writing)



News stories in an English class

Question:
What do journalists do?



Answer on Mentimeter!



Go to www.menti.com and use the code 1149 2927



News Stories in an English class

Journalists...

interview people

write articles

make oral reports

evaluate newsworthiness

document the world

attempt to simplify complicated issues

investigate / try to find the Truth



Students as journalists can...

interview people

write articles

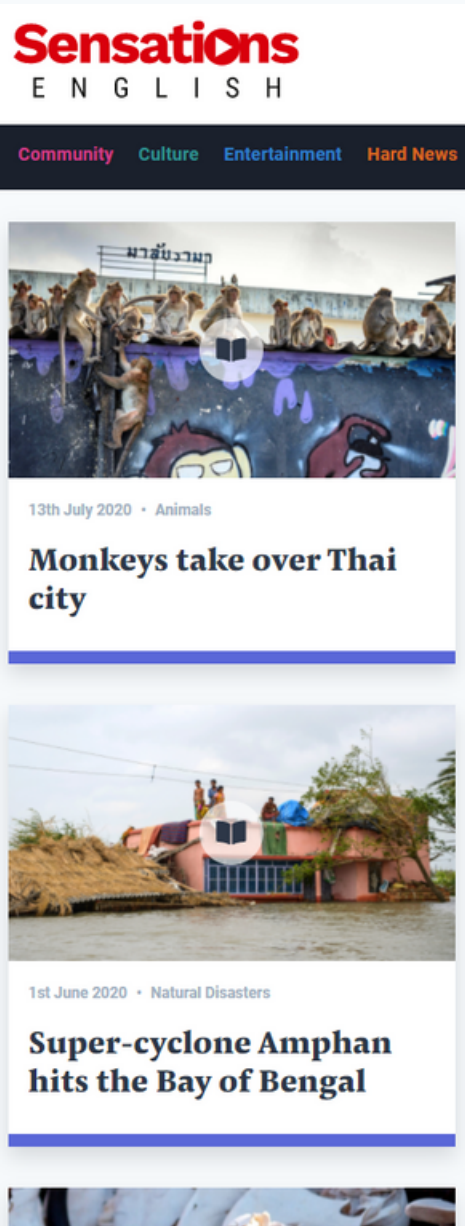
make oral reports

evaluate newsworthiness

document the world

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Setting up journalistic tasks





Setting up journalistic tasks

What do you think
students need before
doing a journalistic task?





Setting up journalistic tasks



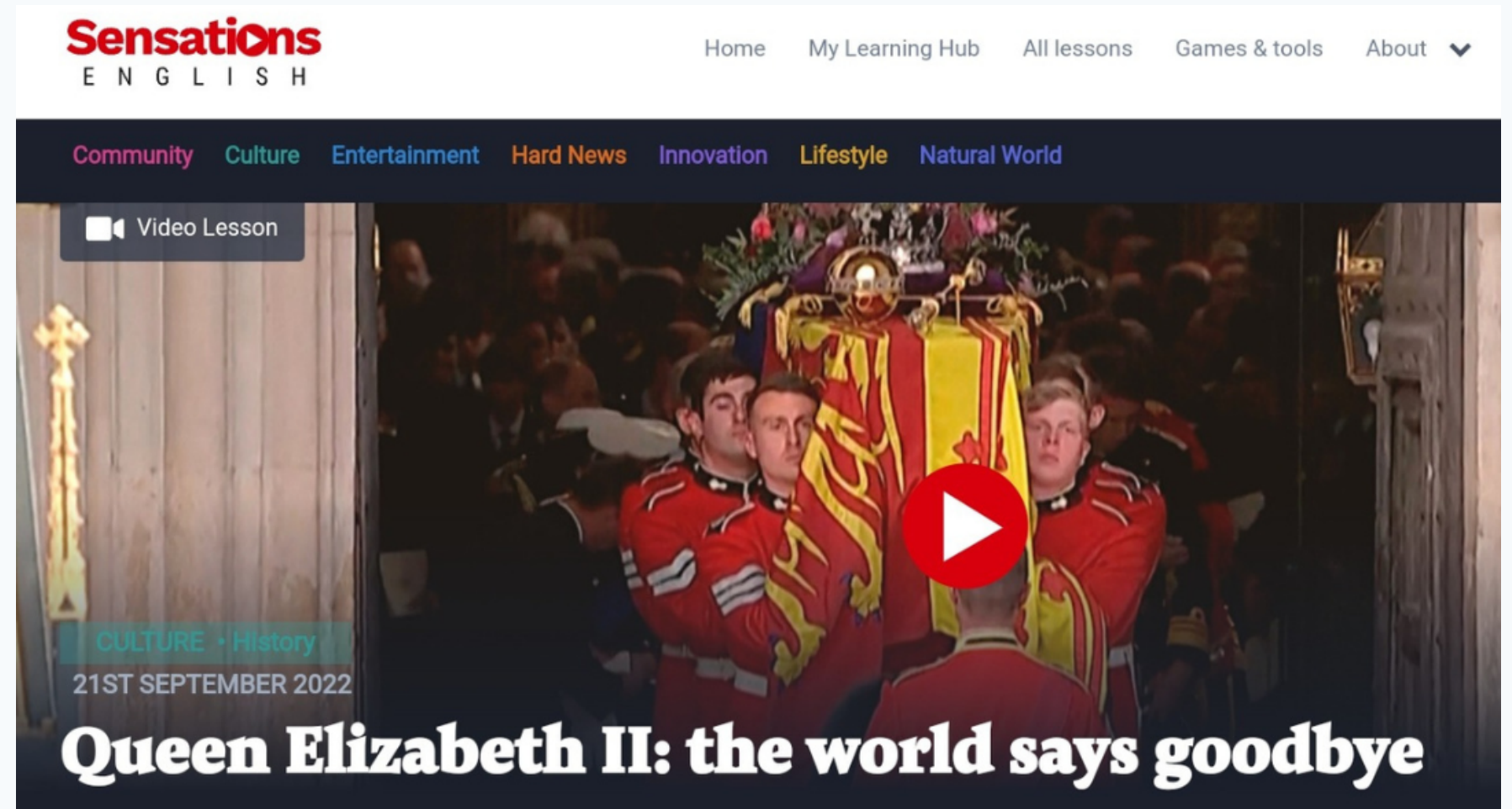


Creating headlines set up



Wow, what a boring headline.

This headline is sad



Queen Elizabeth II: the world says goodbye

Students need to know what a headline is!



Why is it important?

An **effective headline** makes you want to read the article

An **ineffective headline** is boring or unrelated to the story

Which headline is **more effective?**

1

Elephants vs avocados in Kenya

2

A new problem for elephants





Identify effective headlines

Headline Rules

1. 5 - 10 words (short!)
2. Should be accurate and specific
3. No articles (a/an/the)*
4. No be verbs (am/are/is/was/were)*
5. Use 'to' + (verb) instead of 'will be'*

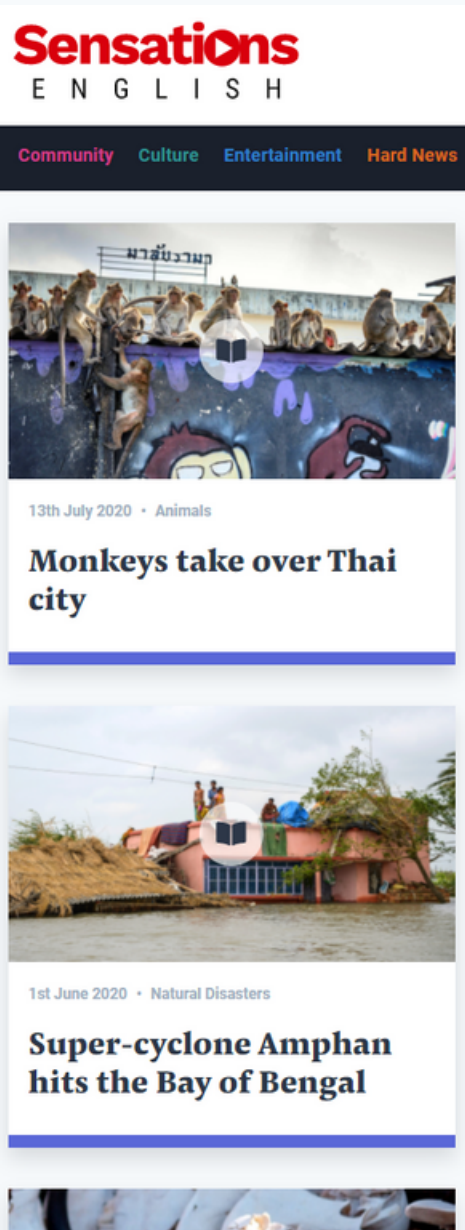
What is wrong with this headline?



**A WOMAN IN FLORIDA
IS THE WINNER OF A
VERY IMPORTANT
COMPETITION**

**Find three headlines from recent news
Do they follow these rules?**

*these rules do not
apply to expressions



Creating Headlines





Creating headlines

Activity

Headline writing competition!



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— **A2**

- 21st December 2020

Bears are dangerous animals. They can hurt people and farm animals. In Japan, bears sometimes hurt people and farm animals.

Takikawa is a town in Japan. Takikawa has a problem with bears. They are coming near the town.

People in Takikawa don't like the bears. They want the bears to go away. The town is using two scary robots.

The robots have four legs and red eyes. They look like wolves. They make sounds like wolves. There aren't any wolves in Japan. But the bears are afraid of the robot wolves.

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Creating headlines

Activity

Headline writing competition!



“A howl a day keeps the bears away”

1. Read the article (at your level A2 - C1)
2. There isn't a headline!
3. In pairs or alone, write ten different headlines the article could have e.g. Robots vs wolves in Japan!
4. Choose the best one to share with the class.
5. All students share their titles (write them on the board)
6. The class votes for the best one
7. The headline with the most votes wins!



Interviews



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ENGLISH

Community Culture Entertainment Hard News

13th July 2020 • Animals
Monkeys take over Thai city

1st June 2020 • Natural Disasters
Super-cyclone Amphan hits the Bay of Bengal



Humans of New York: interview a partner

Context:
journalist interviewing
strangers

Activity:

Humans of Glasgow (or the city/town they live in)

- Interview (record audio if possible)
- Take a photo of your partner

**Students interview each other (not a true stranger)
with 5 open ended questions what go beyond “how old
are you?” and “where are you from?”**





Bug Burgers: interview an expert

Context:

Thailand bug burger restaurant

Activity:

One student roleplays the restaurant owner

The other student is a journalist

Both brainstorm what they would like to say / ask

- **Restaurant owner wants to convince everyone to try bug burgers**
- **Journalist wants to understand how the bug burgers work and why they're important to eat**





Roleplay interview the expert



You are **Mr. Thiaparat**



What do you want to say about bug burgers?

What makes your restaurant special?

You are a **journalist**

Write 3 questions for Mr. Thairapat

Make notes about his responses to tell your fellow classmates

	Questions	Notes
1.		
2.		
3.		



Learning outcomes for interviews

Fluency

Bonding

Confidence

Emergent
language

Shared vocabulary

Emergent
contexts



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Community Culture Entertainment Hard News



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News report



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News report

Context:

Indonesian hijabi band has become very popular




Activity:

Make a news report about Nasida Ria using a fact sheet and a muted video from Sensations English




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Community Culture Entertainment Hard News



13th July 2020 • Animals

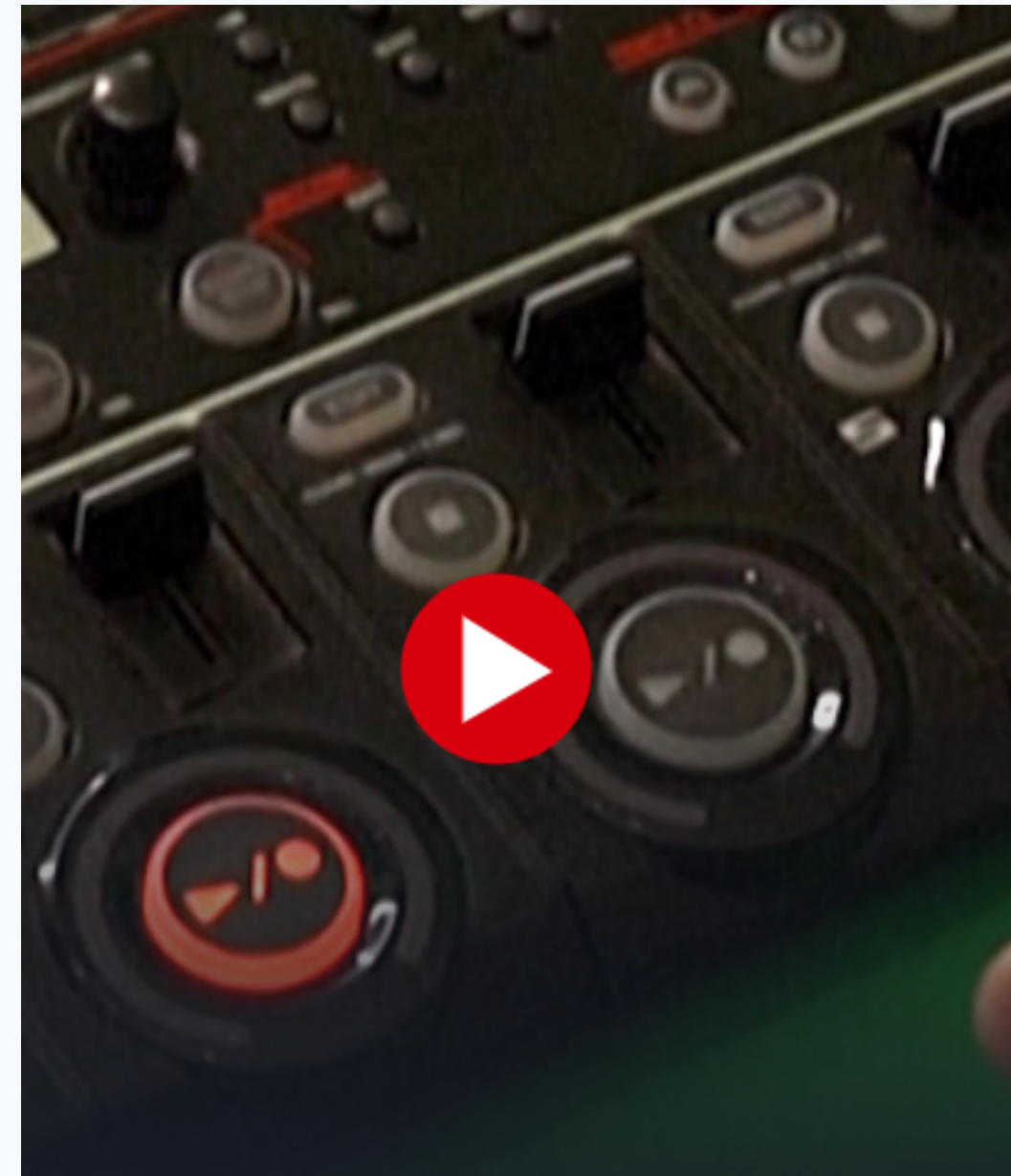
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Feedback / review





Feedback

Question:

How can we give students feedback?



Answer on Mentimeter!



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Feedback / review

Self evaluation

Class discussion

Peer review
(written / spoken)

Teacher feedback
(written / spoken)



Summary

News stories provide effective and fun contexts for language classes

Every student can be a journalist

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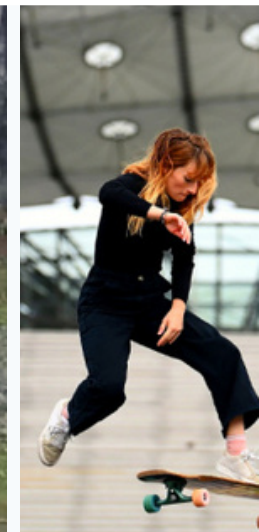
Students build language skills, creativity and confidence from journalism

Journalistic activities help create a student centered class



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Gerald Smith
Language teacher
and journalist

Any questions?

Contact me

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or

www.linkedin.com/in/gnsmith1893









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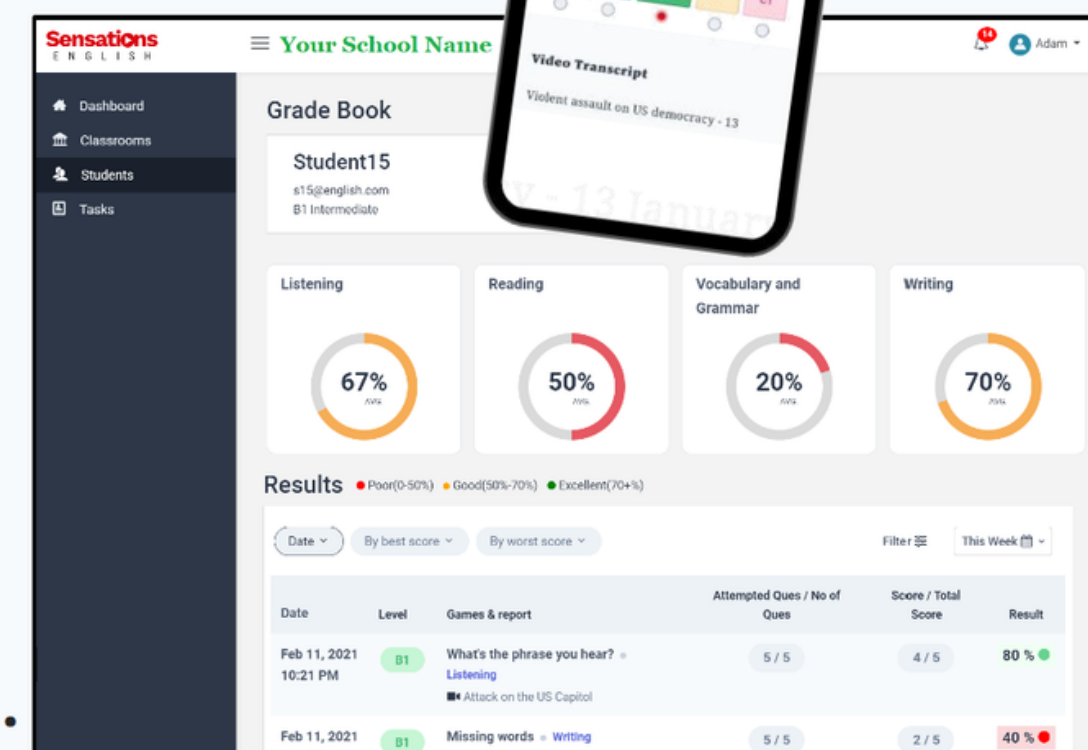
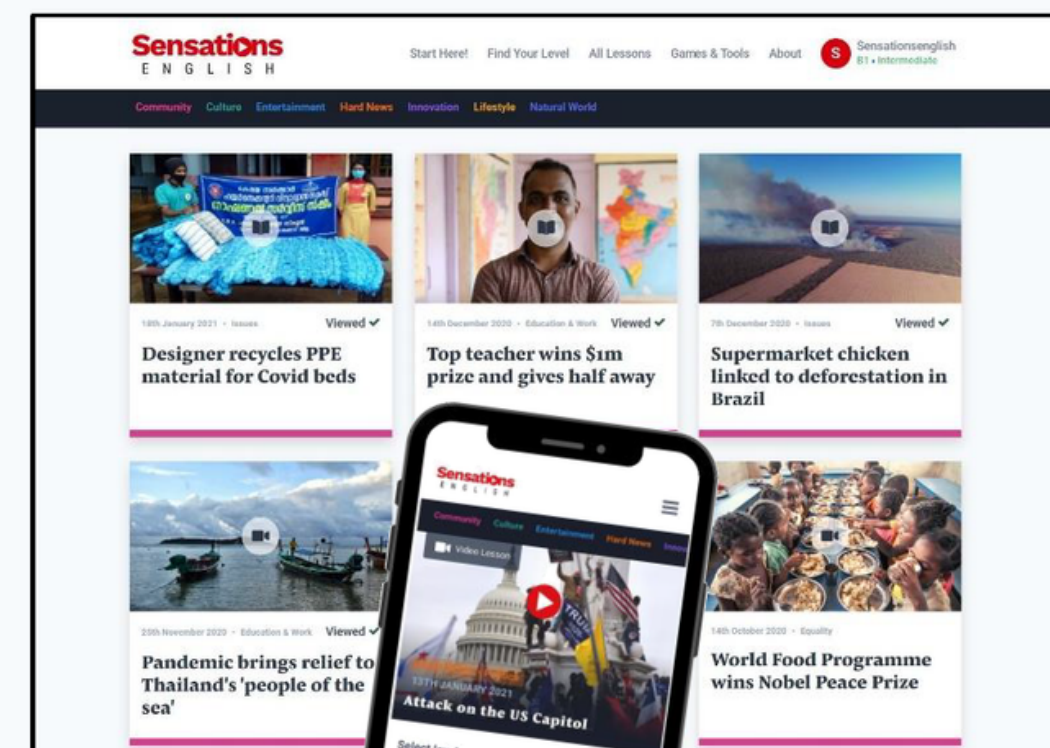
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