



UNCOVERING THE STORY BEHIND THE HEADLINE

Family members create stories to discover compassion and wrestle with difficult choices and their outcomes through local, national or global news.

TIME

15-20 minutes

PARTICIPANTS

Fifth, Sixth Grade and Up, Parents, Family Members

MATERIALS

Recent newspaper or laptop or tablet

DIRECTIONS:

1. Gather your family around a table with a recent newspaper or look up headlines on your tablet. Pick one to read aloud.
2. Ask first, *what do we already know about this topic?* Share only facts. *This is a great opportunity to teach your children the difference between facts and opinions (see definitions below).
3. With the facts, you'll co-create a fictitious story, the story behind the headlines by asking: what was the person or people involved feeling when the event happened or news occurred? Did they have needs that were not getting met? Were they feeling seen, heard and valued?
4. Go-around to each family member and ask each to add to the following: Considering these responses, what different choices did they have? And what could have happened as a result?
5. Choose one of your favorite versions and together, tell the full story behind the headlines.

REFLECTION

Was it challenging or easy to empathize and find compassion for the subject of the headline?

Why do you think?

What did you learn about the difference between fact and opinion? Are there news stories you see or hear that are hard to discern whether they are fact or opinion? Why and how do you know which is which?

Is your final story in alignment with your own values or very different from choices you might make?

What social and emotional skills do you feel were used while doing this activity?

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILL

Responsible Decision-Making – Discovering motivations and needs of a person helps us better understand why they make certain choices. Rethinking options and playing out potential choices with differing results promotes consequential thinking.



PTA
HEALTHY
LIFESTYLES

Social Awareness – Empathizing and finding compassion for someone your family does not know personally by exploring their story.

Fact is something known to exist or to have happened: a truth known by actual experience or observation; something known to be true.¹

Opinion is a belief or judgment that rests on grounds insufficient to produce complete certainty; a personal view, attitude, or appraisal.²

1. Dictionary.com, Retrieved on Dec. 17, 2021 at <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/fact>
2. Dictionary.com, Retrieved on Dec. 17, 2021 at <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/opinion>

