



Media and Communication

Article: should students trust online news?

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. Where do teenagers usually get news or information?
2. How can false information spread online?
3. What should students check before sharing a story?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write an article, often for a school magazine.
Use a catchy title and opening hook.
Develop ideas with reasons and examples.
Use a semi-formal, engaging style.

2. Exam-style task

Your class has recently discussed whether students can trust news they see online. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Online news is quick and easy to find.'

'Social media helps us hear different views.'

'Some stories are posted before anyone checks them.'

'Headlines can be exaggerated just to get clicks.'

Now write an article for your school magazine.

The comments may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model article

Can We Trust What We Scroll Past?

How many news stories do you see before school has even started? For many students, online news is part of everyday life. It is fast, colourful and easy to share, but that does not always make it reliable.

The positive side is clear. Online news can help young people understand what is happening in the world, especially when stories are explained with short videos or simple graphics. Social media can also introduce us to different opinions, not just the views we hear at home or in class.

However, students need to be careful. Some stories are posted quickly without proper checking, and dramatic headlines may be designed to get clicks rather than tell the truth. If we share information without thinking, we can accidentally spread rumours.

In my view, students should not ignore online news, but they should read it critically. Checking the source, comparing reports and asking who benefits from the story can make us smarter readers. The internet gives us information; we still have to use judgement.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and register

Work with the model article. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Article structure	Find the title, opening question, benefits, warning and final view.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain benefits of online news?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain why online news can be unreliable?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest how students should read news?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the article sounds lively but suitable for a school magazine.	
Development	Find one example, warning or effect that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the task prompts

The task prompts can guide your grammar and content choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful language	Why it fits	Example from the model
benefits of online news	modal verbs + examples	You are explaining why online news can be useful.	can help young people understand / short videos or simple graphics
risks online	caution + purpose language	You are warning readers about unreliable information.	need to be careful / designed to get clicks
your view	critical recommendation	You are giving advice about how to respond.	read it critically / Checking the source

6. Build an engaging article

Notice how article phrases help you interest the reader and organise ideas clearly.

Job	Useful article phrases
hook the reader	How many news stories do you see...? / Can we trust what we scroll past? / Is every headline telling the truth?
add context	For many students... / part of everyday life / fast, colourful and easy to share
introduce benefits	The positive side is clear. / can help young people... / can also introduce us to...
show warning	However, students need to be careful. / posted quickly without... / may be designed to...
show effect	If we share information... / accidentally spread rumours / make us smarter readers
finish with a view	In my view... / should read it critically / The internet gives us..., but...

7. Vocabulary and useful article phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this task. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe media	online news / social media / headlines / reports	
describe benefits	quick and easy / different opinions / understand the world	
describe risks	false information / exaggerated headlines / rumours	
sound article-like	scroll past / get clicks / use judgement	
upgrade ideas	reliable / critically / comparing reports	

8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another media or communication issue.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
benefits of online news		
risks / other side		
final view / suggestion		

