



Responding to Emergencies: Lesson Plan

Responding to crises - activity and lesson plan

Overview of learning activities

This activity aims to help students understand the different types of emergencies that occur in developing countries and coverage of these in the Australian media.

Learning outcomes

Students will develop their research, communication and reflection skills by analysing media coverage in Australia of emergencies in developing countries. They will also utilise their analysis, synthesis and interpretation skills through a class discussion about their findings.

Materials needed

This activity requires a computer and internet access.

Directions

1. Break the students into groups of three.
2. Ask the students to research and define the three different types of emergencies that impact developing countries:
 - a. Rapid onset natural disasters (e.g. tsunamis and earthquakes)
 - b. Slow onset natural disasters (e.g. drought and famine)
 - c. Man-made emergencies (e.g. war)
3. Ask students to find online news articles or collect newspaper clippings displaying an example of each type of emergency that has impacted a developing country.
4. Ask each group to compare the three emergency articles/clippings they have collected. What are the differences? What response is required from aid agencies like CARE (for in-depth information students can head to: <https://www.care.org.au/emergencies>)? How does the coverage of an emergency in a developing country compare to coverage of an emergency in a more wealthy country like Australia?
5. Each group can present their findings through a presentation to the class.

Here are some questions to prompt discussion:

- How do you feel when you hear on the news that organisations such as CARE are helping communities affected by disasters?
- Why is the impact of emergencies more severe in developing countries?
- Do you think emergencies in developing countries should receive more coverage in the Australian media?
- What information about emergencies do you think should be discussed in the media? Is there anything important missing in your articles/clippings?