

MEDIA

Discuss the terms “tabloid” and “quality” newspaper; how do they differ in approach and style? Do they have equivalents in the other media, i.e. is there a “gutter” radio or television?

If newspapers are owned by people of a particular political persuasion, can they (or should they) be objective and unbiased in their reporting?

Give a short talk about “Citizen Journalism”. What, in your view, are its forms, advantages and disadvantages?

Using an English newspaper, “translate” some headlines into everyday English, and make a list of 20 words that are not usually used in conversation, but appear regularly in newspapers.

The battle of the transmitters is being fought all over the airwaves of Europe. Whoever has the most powerful station gets the listeners. In this high-tech age, can we and should we control broadcasters, how, and why?

What is your favourite radio station? How could it be improved?

If television were banned tomorrow, what, if anything, would you miss most?

Does violence on TV and video encourage young people to be violent?

Video recorders (VCR's), tape (cassette) recorders, compact disc (CD), MP3 players and other machines that reproduce sound and images have very similar controls. What are they?

In pursuit of “human interest”, reporters often ignore manners and decency completely; how far should they be allowed to go, and who should control them? What are your views on censorship?

The media now investigate all politicians in great depth, filming and photographing them at every opportunity. Is it now possible for a fat, ugly and perhaps eccentric man or woman to achieve high public office simply on the basis of high intelligence, qualification and integrity? For example, would Sir Winston Churchill be able to become prime minister in the face of full, modern media exposure?