


Media case study

Key Learning Area	Unit or lesson title and main focus questions	Most appropriate level and suggested number of lessons
 English	Media case study How does the media cover the Sydney Metro Northwest?	Stage 4-5
		2-3 lessons

Teacher briefing

This media case study may be adapted for either Stage 4 or 5 English. Students find and review articles and news clips found on the web that relate to the Sydney Metro and discuss the following questions.

Note: Sydney Metro Northwest was formerly known as North West Rail Link. It had a name change in June 2015. For more information visit <https://www.sydneymetro.info/>

- How much coverage is there of the Sydney Metro project?
- Is the coverage positive or negative? What would you expect for such a big project?
- What type of coverage is it? How detailed is it?
- Is there a difference in focus in national and local newspaper articles?
- Do all journalists seem to agree or disagree about the purpose of the project?
- What aspects of Sydney Metro project do journalists seem most interested in?

Requirements for these lessons

- Computers
- Interactive whiteboard
- Bookmarked links (see web links).

Assessment

Assess how well students are able to compare media texts that represent ideas and events in different ways, and are able to explain the effects of differing approaches.

Web links



Examples of media coverage

Articles may be found by searching the web using key phrases such as 'North West Rail Link' (as it was previously known prior to being renamed Sydney Metro Northwest in June 2015). For example:

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=north+west+rail+link>

Below is a selection of Sydney Metro project coverage in major and local newspapers.

Sydney metro line 'on track and on budget' as first tracks laid

<https://infrastructuremagazine.com.au/2018/04/23/sydney-metro-northwest-under-budget/>

<https://www.railexpress.com.au/track-finished-on-sydney-metro-northwest/>

Sydney CBD buildings to be demolished for underground Metro interchange

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/sydney-buildings-to-be-torn-down-for-metro>

Sydney Metro Northwest train test at Rouse Hill

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/rouse-hill-times/sydney-metro-northwest-train-test-at-rouse-hill/news-story/8f165526e2934e5342296af8f7f47fd2>

Sydney's Metro Northwest rail line to be completed \$500m under budget

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/sydney-s-metro-northwest-rail-line-to-be-completed-500m-under-budget-20180422-p4zazf.html>

The Sydney suburbs on list of station sites for new metro line

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/the-sydney-suburbs-on-list-of-station-sites-for-new-metro-line-20180323-p4z5vw.html>

<https://theurbandevolver.com/articles/developers-shortlisted-for-waterloo-station-development>

NSW Government announces new city stations for Sydney Metro

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/new-cbd-rail-station-to-link-wynyard-and-martin-place-20180708-p4zq8g.html>

Sydney unveils new single deck and driverless trains

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-19/nsw-government-unveils-new-metro-line-driverless-trains/9562722>

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/sydney-s-first-driverless-metro-train-passes-major-test-20180702-p4zoya.html>

Skytrain's the limit as Sydney Metro North West speeds up ambitious rail link

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/rouse-hill-times/skytrains-the-limit-as-sydney-metro-north-west-speeds-up-ambitious-rail-link/news-story/219a164b6a7fe52472be8884cd211d24>

Sydney Metro crosses Skytrain bridge in testing

<https://www.themercury.com.au/news/national/raw-sydney-metro-crosses-skytrain-bridge-in-testing/video/c08eb325d21ebb791677ed423424516f>

Sydney's new trains unveiled

<https://plenarygroup.com/news-and-media/news/2018/sydneys-new-trains-unveiled>

Sydney metro: Battle over route for \$11 billion project

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-07-01/alp-to-spend-246b-on-western-sydney/9928922>

Monorail becoming temporary bridge to keep traffic moving during Sydney Metro Northwest construction

<https://infrastructuremagazine.com.au/2017/09/04/monorail-beams-removed-as-sydney-metro-project-moves-forward/>

Hong Kong metro gives commuters a clue to what North West Rail Link will look like

<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/sneak-peak-at-future-of-sydney-rail-travel/ar-BBNowNH>

3 companies are building the new \$2.8 billion train line under Sydney Harbour

<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/3-companies-are-building-the-new-2-8-billion-train-line-under-sydney-harbour-2017-6>

Second Sydney Harbour crossing to follow North West Rail

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/secret-reports-show-tunneling-to-start-on-northern-sydney-motorways-by-2021-20180723-p4zt49.html>

Chatswood will cope with rail link passengers

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-09/epping-to-chatswood-train-line-closure-impacts/9632816>

There are also news video clips online. Several recent examples:

<https://www.news.com.au/video/id-5348771529001-5989409750001/sydneys-driverless-train-completes-first-test-run>

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/national/raw-sydney-metro-crosses-skytrain-bridge-in-testing/video/c08eb325d21ebb791677ed423424516f>

Syllabus links

English K-10

(EN4-1A) responds to and composes texts for understanding, interpretation, critical analysis, imaginative expression and pleasure.

(EN4-2A) effectively uses a widening range of processes, skills, strategies and knowledge for responding to and composing texts in different media and technologies.

(EN5-1A) responds to and composes increasingly sophisticated and sustained texts for understanding, interpretation, critical analysis, imaginative expression and pleasure.

(EN5-2A) effectively uses and critically assesses a wide range of processes, skills, strategies and knowledge for responding to and composing a wide range of texts in different media and technologies.

Learning experiences

Students read a range of the media examples provided in web links and discuss these. Alternatively bring up each article on the interactive whiteboard and discuss.

Use the following questions as a guide:

- How much coverage is there of the Sydney Metro project (or North West Rail Link as it was previously known prior to June 2015)?
- Is the coverage more or less than you would expect for such a big project?
- What type of coverage is it? How detailed is it?
- Is there a difference between the focus of national and local newspaper articles?
- Do all journalists seem to agree or disagree about the purpose of the project?
- What aspects of the project do journalists seem to be most interested in?

After discussion and note-taking from the sources, follow-up activities can involve:

- Writing news headlines
- Writing news items in the format of web-news or newspaper articles
- Developing a short 30 second TV report explaining forthcoming change to the local area or some feature of the Sydney Metro project.

Teacher references and extension work

This lesson may be a perfect addition to a larger lesson sequence about ‘What is journalism?’

A good introduction to this lesson might include:

- What is a journalist?
- What are some of the tasks of a journalist?

Through discussion, a list such as the following may be created about the roles of a journalist:

- News gathering and recording eyewitness accounts of events
- Accuracy and corroboration of facts with multiple sources
- Ensuring balance of viewpoints and ‘both sides of the story’
- Stories with conflict are more interesting than stories without.

Through discussion, students identify different types of journalism:

- Broadcast journalism
- Advocacy journalism
- Investigative journalism
- Consumer journalism
- Tabloid journalism
- Political journalism.

