Weather stories

1 If the group is new to the theme of forecasting and prediction, and if you have access to the internet, you might want to start the lesson by playing the **Forecasting fact-busters film**

2 Divide the group into groups of three. Tell each group they are going to look at how the weather forecast is reported in different outlets, thinking about how the story might be told differently from a variety of sources. You can show the groups examples of Met Office online forecasts, tabloid newspapers, social media websites, CBBC Newsround, regional TV and national TV that you find online to give them inspiration. You may like to allocate these channels to specific groups or ask someone from each group to select one via a 'lucky dip'

3 Encourage everyone to familiarise themselves with examples of the media outlet they have been given to understand the tone and language used. If the group has access to computers or tablets and the internet, ask the groups to explore the website for their selected media channel. If not, you can print and prepare example articles in advance of the lesson

20 minutes

Groupwork

Forecasting fact-busters film

4 Once every group has looked at their weather forecast, ask the groups the following questions:

- What words and language are used to describe the weather?

- Is this weather report exaggerated? Is the information exaggerated?

- What does the headline say?

- What type of picture illustrations or graphics are used? Do they change the way the forecast might be interpreted?

5 Give the group 5-10 minutes to write down their answers. Then pick one or two questions from the list and ask each group to share their answer. Emphasise that the weather can be reported very differently in different media

6 Ask everyone to reflect on what they will take away and how they will consider news they see, hear and read in the future. Summarise that it is important to rely on trusted sources, especially when preparing people in the best possible way for what the weather is predicted to be like. Although we may trust people who share stories with us, we need to find out the source of the information to identify what we can trust.

The Met Office provides free education content to support young people to be prepared for the effects of weather and climate change on them and their communities. Find out more at **www.metoffice.gov.uk/schools**

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