

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES
READ • LISTEN • TELL



**“‘You’ll Never Believe What Happened’
is Always a Great Way to Start”
by Thomas King**

Created by
Tamara Hansen

HANDOUT#1: PROJECT OUTLINE & RUBRIC**Essential Questions**

- To what extent can a story broaden our perspective about a complex issue?
- How can exploring Indigenous stories, beliefs, and points of view help us become more conscious and critical of our own personal, social, and cultural perspectives?

In this project, you will be looking at an issue from many angles and reporting on it in multiple forms or styles.

- STEP 1: As a group, you will do some research on a current event or controversial issue.
 - This topic could be something related to Indigenous people, but it does not have to be.
 - It should be an issue that involves two or more points of view.
 - When choosing a topic, keep in mind that you will be informing the class about it.
 - Before beginning your work, you must get your teacher to approve your topic.

Our Topic is:	Is it approved?
	YES!
	NO!

- STEP 2: As a group, read articles from a variety of sources on the subject. Make sure to record which articles you have read for your works cited page (bibliography). You should consult at least four reliable sources on the topic.
- STEP 3: Agree on ten points about what happened/is at stake for the topic you are reporting on.

Our 10 Points:	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____
6.	_____
7.	_____
8.	_____
9.	_____
10.	_____

- **STEP 4:** You are going to report to the class or your teacher about your topic using three different forms or styles.
 - It would also be good for each form or style to evoke a different feeling about the story (see “Sample topic”).
 - Work together with your group to choose three different styles or forms.
 - Style or form suggestions: Limerick poem, nightly news report, interpretive dance, a play, a dramatic monologue told from one person’s point of view, a song, a PowerPoint presentation, a series of memes, a cartoon, a haiku poem, a magazine article, a blog post, a vlog post, etc.

Sample topic: “Should cell phones be used during class?”

Sample Group 1	“A dramatic monologue” to celebrate	“A parody song” to mock	“A news report” to condemn
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phones are useful in the classroom for research • Parents can reach students in an emergency, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students cannot handle 5 minutes without a selfie or an Instagram update • Students cannot read analog clocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are too distracted and not learning anything • Cell phone addiction is a real thing.

		anymore and need cell phones to tell time.	
Sample Group 2	“A PowerPoint Presentation” for Pro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can access the world from the palm of their hand (ex. Virtual reality, museums across the world, connecting with other classrooms, etc.) 	“A helicopter parent’s monologue” for Con <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can access the world from the palm of their hand (ex. Pornography, cyber bullying, etc.) 	“A fake TV ad” for weird <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cell phones are pacifiers that keep students quiet and submissive, teachers are lucky to have them in the classroom.
Sample Group 3	“An epic poem” for Teacher perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are a distraction from “real” learning. Students are just playing games or posting selfies. 	“A limerick poem” for Student perspective #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School is boring, and my cell phone is the only thing that gets me through the day. 	“A spoken word poem” for Student perspective #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I do not need my cell phone and I hate it when my teacher generalizes.

- **STEP 5:** Work as a team to produce your texts in the three forms or styles chosen. You will either be presenting your three forms or styles to the class or submitting a portfolio to your teacher. Evaluation will be based on the rubric on the following page.
- **STEP 6:** Once your work is complete, you will fill in the self-evaluation sheet provided by your teacher. You will also write a short self-reflection on the conventions of the forms/styles chosen for this project and the pros and cons of each for communicating about the issue/incident you are reporting on. Please also reflect on how this helps you to answer the essential question: “To what extent can a story broaden our perspective about a complex issue?”
- **STEP 7:** You are responsible for submitting to your teacher:
 - Your group’s three alternative form/style texts (presentation and/or portfolio)
 - Your works consulted page (bibliography)
 - Your self-evaluation and reflection

PRESENTATION - TEACHER EVALUATION				
NAME:				
GROUP:				
Scale	Content/Meaning	Choices	Delivery	Works Consulted
Exceeds Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your topic is very well chosen. Your group is passionate and has a lot to say on this issue/event. All 3 forms/styles have a different tone and perspective on the topic. Some complexity and/or some risk-taking in analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent selection of 3 forms/styles which are varied. All three texts conform to the expectations of the form/style you chose and are excellently executed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear and expressive voice/writing with few mistakes. Greatly enhances audience understanding of the issue / event you are reporting on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A typed bibliography is submitted. The bibliography has 4 works or more consulted on your topic. Bibliography follows proper format. Sources are reliable and chosen with care.
Fully meets expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your topic is well chosen. Your group has a lot to say on this issue/event. All 3 forms/styles generally have a different tone and perspective on the topic. Ideas are clearly and logically developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good selection of 3 forms/styles which are varied. All three texts conform to the expectations of the form/style you chose and are well executed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaking is an adequate volume and good expression/ some mistakes and typos in the text. Enhances audience understanding of the issue / event you are reporting on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A typed bibliography is submitted. The bibliography has 4 works consulted on your topic. Bibliography generally follows proper format. Sources are reliable.
Minimally meets expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your topic is chosen following the criteria. Your group is able to express some ideas about this issue/event. All 3 forms/styles generally have a different tone and perspective on the topic. Some areas of your work may be sketchy, illogical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of forms/styles are satisfactory and/or lack variety. The three texts do not fully conform to the expectations of the form/style you chose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaking skills barely adequate / Several mistakes and typos in the text. Lack of preparation and/or attention to detail impedes audience understanding of the issue / event you are reporting on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A typed bibliography is submitted. The bibliography has at least 4 works consulted on your topic. Bibliography generally follows proper format. Sources are generally reliable.

Not yet within expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your chosen topic does not follow the criteria, Your group has not really expressed any particular perspectives about this issue/event. All 3 forms/styles are too similar, and / or you did not use 3 different forms/styles. Inadequate material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of forms/styles are not satisfactory and lack variety. The three texts do not conform to the expectations of the form/style you chose and are poorly executed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words are mumbled or inaudible / Many mistakes and typos in the text. Lack of preparation and/or attention to detail impedes audience understanding of the issue / event you are reporting on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A typed bibliography is submitted. The bibliography has under 4 works consulted on your topic. Bibliography generally follows proper format. Sources are generally reliable.
No attempt made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No attempt made to connect to the topic or explore various forms/styles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are less than 3 forms/styles in your project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refusal to present / nothing submitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student is rude and disruptive. Use of phone or another electronic device.

TEACHER COMMENTS:

PRESENTATION - SELF-EVALUATION				
NAME:				
GROUP:				
Scale	Content/Meaning	Choices	Delivery	Teamwork
Exceeds Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your topic is very well chosen, Your group is passionate and has a lot to say on this issue/event. All 3 forms/styles have a different tone and perspective on the topic. Some complexity and/or some risk-taking in analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent selection of 3 forms/styles which are varied. All three texts conform to the expectations of the form/style you chose and are excellently executed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear and expressive voice/writing with few mistakes. Greatly enhances audience understanding of the issue / event you are reporting on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I consistently and actively contributed towards our group work. I willingly accepted and fulfilled my role to the best of my ability.
Fully meets expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your topic is well chosen, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good selection of 3 forms/styles which are varied. All three texts conform to the expectations of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaking is an adequate volume and good expression/ some mistakes and typos in the text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I actively contributed towards our group work. I accepted and fulfilled my

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your group has a lot to say on this issue/event. All 3 forms/styles generally have a different tone and perspective on the topic. Ideas are clearly and logically developed. 	<p>the form/style you chose and are well executed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhances audience understanding of the issue / event you are reporting on. 	<p>role to the best of my ability.</p>
<p>Minimally meets expectations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your topic is chosen following the criteria, Your group is able to express some ideas about this issue/event. All 3 forms/styles generally have a different tone and perspective on the topic. Some areas of your work may be sketchy, illogical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of forms/styles are satisfactory and/or lack variety. The three texts do not fully conform to the expectations of the form/style you chose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaking skills barely adequate / Several mistakes and typos in the text. Lack of preparation and/or attention to detail impedes audience understanding of the issue / event you are reporting on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I worked towards our group work with occasional prompting. Eventually I fulfilled my role within our presentation.
<p>Not yet within expectations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your chosen topic does not follow the criteria, Your group has not really expressed any particular perspectives about this issue/event. All 3 forms/styles are too similar, and / or you did not use 3 different forms/styles. Inadequate material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of forms/styles are not satisfactory and lack variety. The three texts do not conform to the expectations of the form/style you chose and are poorly executed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words are mumbled or inaudible / Many mistakes and typos in the text. Lack of preparation and/or attention to detail impedes audience understanding of the issue / event you are reporting on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I minimally contributed towards our group work. I did not fulfill my role within our presentation.

Teamwork Pie Chart	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Divide up the pie for the amount of work each member of your team did towards your presentation.</i> <i>Please provide a number as well.</i> <i>If you have a group of four and everyone worked about the same it would be 25% each.</i> <i>If you have a group where some worked more and some worked less, reflect that in the pie and their percentage.</i> 	<p>EXAMPLE!</p>

