Overview
Students consider how terrorists use the media and how the media can help fuel terrorism, then write a memo to a news organization with suggestions on how best to cover terrorism.

Length
Two class periods

Materials
- Terrorism and the Media (World101)
- Identity and Radicalization (World101)

Instructional Plan
1. Have students view the “Terrorism and the Media” video and read “Identity and Radicalization” and then discuss as a class the relationship between terrorism and the media.
2. Have students imagine they are terrorism experts advising a news organization on how best to cover news of terrorism.
3. Ask them to write a memo providing recommendations in response to the following questions:
   - How can terrorist attacks be covered responsibly, when coverage is often exactly what the terrorists want?
   - Should messages from or interviews with terrorists be published or broadcast?
   - How much should terrorism be covered as compared to other national issues?

Extension
Instead of having students write a memo to a generic news organization, assign each student or group a real news organization and ask them to critique that organization’s reporting in their memo. This goes much more smoothly if you select a particular terrorist incident for everyone to focus on, because students will find it easier to navigate the news archives if they are looking for a specific incident.