

## 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.