

Considering Central Ideas with Headlines



Objective

Evaluate whether an article's headline accurately reflects the central ideas.

ELA Common Core Anchor Standards

- CCSS ELA R.2: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- CCSS.ELA R.5: Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

Connect

Have you ever liked or shared something just because you liked the headline? Why or why not?



Headlines



“Extra! Extra! Read all about it!” Way back when, kids would run around trying to sell newspapers with this rallying cry.

Today, the traditional newspaper has been replaced by the one on the screen, so without the newspaper boys, editors and writers often try to make the headlines scream instead.

Clickbait

Articles with these screaming headlines are sometimes referred to as clickbait. The headlines don't always accurately reflect the central ideas and are often misleading.

Why do you think clickbait exists?



Practice

- Search the Mucktracker app to find two news stories.
- For each article, identify the central idea.
- Then, explain whether the headline accurately reflects the central idea.
- Write a new headline for one of your articles, and review with a partner. Compare your headline with theirs.



Wrap-Up



- Headlines are used to communicate news stories swiftly.
- However, sometimes headlines don't accurately reflect the article's central idea.
- Do you think news providers have a responsibility to craft accurate headlines? Why or why not?