

English & Drama – How was 9/11 represented in the media and other accounts?

Worksheet: Comparing news values

News value	9/11	Malawi famine
Frequency – Has it occurred suddenly and can it easily be slotted into the news production schedule, ready for the next broadcast or edition; or has it emerged gradually over time?		
Threshold – Is it a big enough event? Does it involve or impact upon large numbers of people?		
Unambiguity – Is it easy to understand without too much complicated explanation or back story?		
Meaningfulness – Is it relevant to us in Britain and is it likely to have an impact on our lives? Is it happening to “people like us”?		
Unexpectedness – Is it unexpected, rare or surprising?		
Continuity – Is it already in the news, and part of an ongoing story and therefore easy to cover? Has previous reporting made it easier to understand?		
Composition – How well can it compete with other news stories of the day? Does it provide a good balance or contrast?		
Elite nations – Is it about elite or powerful nations that may later have an impact on us in Britain?		
Elite people – Does it involve famous or powerful people?		
Personalisation – Does it include a personal or human interest angle about individuals with which we can easily identify?		
Negativity – Is it bad news and therefore likely to sell more newspapers?		
Consonance – Does it match the media's expectations? Are they ready to report it?		

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