

# Activity . . . . . ➔ 53

## Finding truth and fact in mass information

### STUDENT HANDOUT

Imagine that you have applied for a job as a 'fact checker' for a national organisation. This is a person who is employed to check that the facts and assertions made in written text are correct and true.

As part of the selection process you have been asked to choose a piece of written text that has already been published (in print or online). You must go through the text meticulously to identify all the facts and assertions that have been made. Once you have done this, produce a plan of action that lists the methods you would use, if you got the job, to check each fact/assertion that you have identified.

This is your dream job and you are very keen to be selected. Make sure that you choose a challenging piece of text that needs you to work hard to identify facts and assertions, and check the claims that are made. Avoid text containing facts that are easy to confirm, verify, disprove or refute as your potential employer will not be impressed and will look to a more hard-working candidate. Hand your text and plan of action to me by the stated deadline.

I will play the role of potential employer and you will play the role of potential employee when we next meet. In my role I will be hiring the best candidate(s) for the job, so convince me that this is you by producing a detailed and comprehensive analysis and plan of action, and by contributing to the class discussion.

**Learning outcome:** By the end of this activity you will understand how to identify facts and assertions that have been made in written text and will know how to check facts and assertions to verify, confirm, disprove or refute what has been written.