



NEWS & MEDIA LITERACY

We are critical  
thinkers & creators.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP | GRADE 8

# This Just In!



# Essential Question

How should we react to breaking news?

# Learning Objectives

1

Define breaking news and understand why individuals and news outlets want to be first to report a story.



2

Analyze breaking news alerts to identify clues of false or incomplete information.



3

Reflect on the consequences of reacting right away to breaking news alerts.



## WARM UP: REFLECT



- Have you ever seen a breaking news alert like this one?
- How did/does it make you feel?



# Breaking news

Information being reported about an event that has just happened or is currently occurring



# What are the benefits of being the first to "break" news?

For Individuals	For News Outlets





# 24/7 News Cycle

24-hour, seven-day-a-week investigating and reporting of news via television, radio, print, online, and mobile app devices





## ACTIVITY: BREAKING DOWN BREAKING NEWS

Metro News

25m ago

### Breaking News: Skatepark Closure

Meeting agenda indicates Common Sense City Council in secret meetings to close skatepark. Will local skaters be left hanging? Officials have not yet been reached for comment.



**Sam T**

19 minutes

My uncle works for the parks department. He says skateparks cost a lot to maintain. He said the park will reopen but he thinks the city will start charging an admission fee.



Like



Comment



That's not fair! 😞



**My Rights** @MyRights • 10m

Skateparks are the latest casualty in a community that doesn't value the outdoors. Here we go again!! Remember the rock wall!! What about our rights???



City council cites traffic concerns in 'No' vote for downtown rock climbing wall

Metronewsonline.com, 11/20/2011

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## ACTIVITY: BREAKING DOWN BREAKING NEWS

Alert No. 1 uses words and phrases that show there's likely more information to come.

Alerts No. 2 and 3 are not from established news organizations. News organizations follow professional standards and practices to verify news reports and make corrections when they get facts wrong.

Alert No. 3 is presenting the story in a particular way, as if it is connected to something that happened several years before. The author of this post wants people to believe that their rights are being taken away. This is an example of bias.

Metro News 25m ago

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# Bias



Showing a strong opinion or preference for or against something or someone





## ANALYZE: CRITICAL EYE FOR BREAKING NEWS TIPS

Before reacting, slow down and ...

🔍 **Check** the **source**. Is the news from a reliable news organization?

- ★ If not, it may be questionable. See if other news organizations are reporting the same thing.

🔍 **Look** to see **if there's more information to come**. Does the article mention important details that aren't yet known?

- ★ If so, it may be better to wait for the whole story before deciding what to think or sharing.

🔍 **Analyze** for **bias**. Does the author or source organization have an agenda or purpose for talking about the story?

- ★ If so, look for a different source.





## ACTIVITY: CANCELED CONCERT?



**CS Pavilion** @csPavilion • 5m

We are sorry to report the promoters of Summer Fest have decided to cancel the concert scheduled for tomorrow. For info regarding rescheduling or refunds, please contact TicketChief directly. We are sorry for the inconvenience.



**Sheena** @mu\$icFAN04 • 3m

No WAY! I can't get thru to TicketChief. Booo!



**Miles** @truthTeller08 • 1m

I heard it's just being moved to next week.

Metro News

5m ago

### Breaking News: Concert Cancelled

The Summer Fest concert scheduled to take place at the county fairgrounds tomorrow has been cancelled.



**summer\_\$ings14**



**summer\_\$ings14**

I loved Summer Fest last year. I can't believe it's cancelled!!! I just heard we probably won't get a refund because the ticket form says they only refund for bad weather!!!! 😞



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# Breaking News!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Skatepark Story


### Part 1: Directions

Use the news alerts below to complete the "What I Think Is Happening" column in the table that follows.

**Metro News** 25m ago

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News Source	What I Think Is Happening	What's Missing or Inaccurate?
Metro News alert		
Sam T's social media post		
@MyRights' feed		



# Breaking News!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 2: Directions

Read the news story below and work with your group to complete the "What's Missing or Inaccurate?" column from Part 1.

### Metro News Update: Skatepark to Remain

By Muriel Ryder, Metro News

Updated at 6:36 p.m. on Friday, August 20


**Metro City (Metro News)**—The Common Sense City Council shared changes last night in the construction plan for the 14th Street Skatepark. A leaked copy of the meeting agenda had park users fearing permanent closure. Last night's announcement clarified that the park would be temporarily closed from March to July while repairs are made to the facility.

"These repairs are part of our city's ongoing commitment to ensure safe spaces for our citizens to enjoy the outdoors," explained Raya Knox, parks commissioner. Knox confirmed that the park would not be expanded for at least two years due to budget shortfalls. "While we are not able to expand the park at this time, we are still dedicated to maintaining a free facility for our users." Knox also noted the city's commitment to outdoor activities, including the miles of bike and walking paths the city has added over the last three years.

## Part 3: Directions

Fill in the blanks below as the teacher reviews the **Critical Eye for Breaking News** tips.


Before reacting, slow down and ...

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 **Look** to see \_\_\_\_\_. Does the article mention important details that aren't yet known?

★ If so, it may be better to wait for the whole story before deciding what to think or sharing.

 **Analyze** for \_\_\_\_\_. Does the author or source organization have an agenda or purpose for talking about the story?

★ If so, look for a different source.






NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# Canceled Concert?


## Directions

Use the news alerts below and the Critical Eye for Breaking News tips to answer the questions at the bottom of the handout.


**CS Pavilion** @csPavilion • 5m


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I loved Summer Fest last year. I can't believe it's cancelled!!! I just heard we probably won't get a refund because the ticket form says they only refund for bad weather!!!! 

1. Based on the news alerts, what is likely happening with the concert? Why?

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2. What clues do you see in the alerts that might indicate incomplete or inaccurate information?

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3. If you had tickets for the concert and saw these alerts, what should you do?

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