

Grade 8 Playlist: Using Different Mediums

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.7:

- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.

Welcome

When given the task of presenting information, people must first decide the best medium to use: print, film, audio, multimedia, and so on. Each medium has its advantages and disadvantages, and each may be more suitable for specific or different tasks. For example, what's the difference between using print and using videos to present information about a given subject? Textbooks provide writers with a genre that can fully investigate a topic and may offer more information. But videos can use animated visual aids in explaining difficult topics. Some learners even digest information better when it's presented in a particular medium!

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- explain the advantages of using different mediums to present a particular topic or idea.
- evaluate different mediums in order to select the most effective medium in which to present a particular topic or idea.

Exploring the Standard

An effective way to evaluate the pros and cons of different mediums is to examine different sources that cover the same subject. Each medium offers something unique to the presentation and interpretation of the text, topic, or idea. For example, one can view a video of a significant presidential speech and read a transcript of the same speech.

A Closer Look: Viewing a Speech

In American history, December 7, 1941, is often referred to as the Day of Infamy, as coined by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. On this day, Japanese forces attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Lives were lost, naval and air equipment was destroyed, and the community was greatly affected. Within hours of Roosevelt's speech, the U.S. officially declared war on Japan, which also signified the United States' entrance into World War II. Because the effects of this attack were substantial to the lives of all Americans, this day's events have been told and adapted many times through many mediums, including film, textbook, television, creative literature, and presentation.



Example 1

Watch Roosevelt’s Infamy Speech at this link:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhtuMrMVJDk>

While watching and listening, consider the experiences that are unique to watching a speech. For example, depending on the video, watching a speech may reveal how members of the audience feel about what the speaker is saying. Seeing the setting of the speech and the way people on a stage or in the audience are dressed provides context for the viewer.

Hint!

While the speech itself is considered brief for presidential announcements, its brevity enhances the weight of its content.

Now, read the following chart to see the advantages and disadvantages of viewing the speech.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Viewers may be immediately transported to the time period because the video is grainy and black and white.	The video of the speech offers only one visual point of view. Viewers cannot see, for example, the president’s facial expressions or expressions of people in attendance.
Viewers can hear the president’s tone, especially as he uses a louder voice to place more emphasis on certain words and phrases. Viewers can also pay attention to the impact of the president’s strategic pauses.	The video shows the president delivering the speech at a certain pace. If viewers need to slow down, they would have to pause the video and interrupt the flow of the speech.
Viewers can hear when Congress reacts to specific points in the speech, especially toward the end, with applause or standing ovations.	

A Closer Look: Reading a Speech

Reading a speech creates a different experience of examining the content of the speech. For example, reading a text allows readers to more slowly experience its content. They can spend the time to examine word choice for its meaning and tone. Readers can also reread specific quotes, pausing to look up unfamiliar words or associations. This slower process may offer readers a deeper understanding and relationship to the text.

Now, read an excerpt of the transcript of the same speech. Pay attention to the experience of reading. Think about how reading the text differs from viewing the speech. What are the advantages and disadvantages?

