



Activity N°5: Don't say that! Use another word

Key words: *Language / Discourse / Live commentary*

Awareness-raising
Identification
France



Target groups:

- Journalism students
- Professional journalists
- Media literacy trainers

Duration: 45 to 60 minutes

Context: This activity, as an exercise on language and differing usage of words, shows participants the construction of meanings induced by media discourse, especially in the context of live commentary.

Objectives:

- To raise awareness of differing usage of words
- To become aware of the construction of discourse
- To discuss the media context specific to live commentary

Equipment:

- Pens and paper
- Something that makes a noise (bell, whistle, musical instrument, etc)
- Video display equipment

Media resources: Video sequences of sports events lasting approximately 1'30" (one sequence per subgroup).

Observations: This activity could be shortened by working on just one or two video sequences. In such cases, the trainer chooses which words are not to be used.

Organisation:

Class configuration	Time in minutes	Sequence of activities
GR		Introduce and explain the activity. Form sub-groups and assign a video sequence to each.
PRS	5'	Each sub-group watches its video sequence once, and draws up a list of ten words which the commentators are asked not to use.
GR	5'	Two volunteer participants sit in front of the projection screen. They are given the secret list of prohibited words and give live commentary on the video sequence shown. They are not allowed to use the words on the list. The sub-group that drew up the list concerned makes a noise whenever a prohibited word (or one similar) is used. At the end of the sequence, the other participants try to guess which words were prohibited.
GR	15-20'	Repeat the exercise with the other video sequences.
GR	15'	Discuss lessons learned from the exercise, in particular regarding the role played by words and the production context.

Variant: This activity could be carried out using certain words to which participants are restricted.

Suggested follow-up activities:

Language and words Unit: Activity n° 7. Where are the women?