

Headlines

Think of the big ideas and important themes in what you have been learning.

- Write a headline for this topic or issue that summarises and captures a key aspect that you feel is significant and important.



purpose

This routine helps learners capture the core or heart of the matter. It also can involve summing up and coming to tentative conclusions about a concept being studied or discussed.

Synthesising
& Organising
Ideas

PURPOSE

What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?

This routine asks students to reflect, synthesise and capture the core or heart of the matter being studied or discussed. It also can involve them in summing things up and come to some tentative conclusions.

APPLICATION

When and where can it be used?

Use this routine:

- To help students deal with social conflicts on the playground.
- To examine literacy themes and central ideas in a text.
- At the end of a class discussion or session in which you have explored a topic & gathered information

ASSESSMENT

How can I use this routine as an assessment?

- Pay attention to each students' headline as well as the reasoning behind their choice.
- Has the student seen or noticed an idea that could have otherwise been missed?*
- Has the student crafted a headline that highlights an issue that is worth the whole group's attention?*
- Does the headline do its job in synthesising and distilling the event or does it focus on tangential elements?*
- What does the headline reveal about their current understanding of the topic?*

LAUNCH

What are the steps needed for starting and using this routine?

1. **Set up** → After students have engaged in learning experiences, ask them to consider what they think some of the core ideas seem to be.
2. **Write a headline** → *Write a headline for this topic/issue that captures an important aspect or core idea that we would want to remember.* Complete individually or in pairs.
3. **Share the thinking** → After a draft headline has been made share it with peers around them. It is important they share their headlines and the story and **reasoning** behind their choice, unpacking the headline for others. **The goal:** to create a forum in which different perspectives and nuances are surfaced.
4. **Invite further sharing** → Create a class collection of the headlines that document the group's thinking. Working with a collection of headlines, you might encourage your class to search for common themes or elements among the headlines.

Adapted by Alice Vigors 2017