

The Stories We are Told

Where do we get our information? How do we know we are getting the full story? What else is there to know? These activities explore the danger of only hearing one side of the story.

Prepare

You will need a pile of newspapers. Any will do, but you might want to make sure that there are plenty of stories about young people in them.

With enough time, some groups could watch *The Dangers of a Single Story* by Chimamanda Adichie to explore this theme more fully:

<http://youtu.be/D9lhs241zeg>

Activity

Ask the young people in small groups to go through the newspapers looking for stories about young people.

From these stories can they create a caricature of what a young person is like according to the press? Invite them to produce a freeze frame, a short drama or a piece of art that presents that picture of young people.

Is this the truth? Is it part of the truth? Is there more to young people than what the papers say? Is it a problem that young people are being portrayed in this way?

How can we make sure we are hearing more than one side of a story?

Act

Tell a different story. If your local paper regularly prints bad news about young people then write to them and redress the balance. Celebrate young people with good news stories.

The Jimmy Mizen Foundation supports young people to become that good news story www.jimmymizen.org