

Germ and Journalism

There has been much discussion about germs in the news. Look through a current newspaper or magazine and find three articles covering the same health issue. As a group answer the following questions:

- How do the different media publications cover the story? Why might the articles use different angles to cover the same story?
- What has each reporter done to capture the reader's attention? Have the reporters been unbiased in their coverage? Is the coverage informative? Does it create a panic for the reader or a call to action?
- Was any important information left out of the articles? Could the reporter have been more thorough in covering the issues (i.e., by including an interview with a doctor, government official or corporate executive)?
- Are the articles appropriate for the publications in which they appeared? Why/why not?

Assignment: Students are journalists covering a fictional outbreak of E. coli O89:D5 leading to the recall of "Cowlicious" hamburger meat in your town. Help them identify who they would interview, where they could conduct research and the "who," "what," "where," "when," and "why" of the story. Help them to develop an informative, unbiased article.

Idea taken from www.gphealthsmart.com