



Critical listening 1: radio news and current affairs

Record (or download), describe and analyse two radio news bulletins and two radio current affairs shows. Choose news bulletins and current affairs shows that are broadcast on the same day, and all selected programs should have gone to air within the same week. You should choose a news bulletin followed by a current affairs show on one day of the week and later that week choose another similar pair of programs.

Suitable current affairs programs would be, for example, AM, PM or The World Today on ABC Radio National.

Devoting approximately 400 words to each show, describe its content briefly and analyse its approach to the news and issues of the day.

Apart from the content you should also note the following:

- The order in which stories were placed;
- Whether stories used actuality, voiceover and/or natsound;
- How the current affairs related to the news agenda of that week;
- How the news stories differed in structure from the current affairs pieces (it will be helpful to note the length of each item as a possible distinguishing characteristic);
- Were there any “soft” or “light” items featured, and if so where in the bulletin/show?
- Based on your knowledge of radio journalism practice, is there anything that you would have done differently if you had been responsible for putting these programs together?
- Listen critically and write about what you think of the voices of the news reader/presenter and the reporters – do they have clear and effective radio voices?