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Criminology

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Activity 2: Media representations of crime

In unit 1 of Criminology, you will study the media representations of crime and the impact these can have on the public perceptions of crime. In this activity, you will explore how different forms of media portray crime, using specific examples to distinguish between factual and fictional representations. You will reflect on the accuracy and impact of these portrayals and create a media profile.

Part 1: Explore the six media types below and find one example of how each portrays crime. Identify whether the portrayal is factual (e.g., news, documentary) or fictional (e.g., drama, game, song). We have covered newspapers in brief detail to guide your responses.



30 mins

Media Type	Example Title/Source	Factual or Fictional?	Type of Crime Portrayed	Notes on Representation
Newspaper	<i>The Guardian</i> – “Teen stabbed in London”	Factual	Violent crime	Focus on youth violence, often sensational headlines
Television				
Film				
Electronic Gaming				
Social Media				
Music				

Part 2: Answer the following questions in full sentences:

1. Which media type do you think gives the most accurate portrayal of crime? Why?
2. Which media type do you think influences public opinion the most? Give an example.
3. How do fictional portrayals of crime (e.g., in films or games) differ from factual portrayals (e.g., in news or documentaries)?
4. Do you think media representations of crime can lead to stereotyping? Explain with an example.



30 mins

Part 3: Choose one media type and create a profile poster that shows how it represents crime. We would like to display these on our classroom wall.

Include:

- A title (e.g., “Crime in Video Games”)
- At least two specific examples (e.g., GTA V, Watch Dogs)
- Whether the portrayal is factual or fictional
- Images, quotes, or headlines



1 hour

Activity 3: Speed-Typing Course - <https://www.typing.com/en-gb/student/lessons>

To aid you in the controlled assessment part of the course, you would benefit from being able to type quickly. For this reason, we are asking that you complete the following course on touch-typing (*This is also a life skill and may well benefit you in other subjects as well!*)

Create a free account and complete the beginner and intermediate typing courses (*you can complete the advanced one if you fancy an extra challenge*). You should be aiming to achieve a typing speed between 40 & 60 wpm.



1 hour

How to hand this in:

- Activity 1 & 2: Please bring a hard copy of this work (either hand drawn or printed) to your first lesson.
- Activity 3: Print a copy of the certificate provided and bring this to your first lesson.

Good luck! We are looking forward to seeing you all in September.