

Year 7 - English

Worksheet 2

The challenge task

Ji-an's email to Justin

Dear Justin,

This is a well written article that will capture our readers' attention. However, I fear aspects are based on the deliberate creation of disinformation. You may not have been aware of this, but we do not want to spread misinformation at this paper.

Now work together in pairs to complete the editorial tasks. You will do this by writing and annotating on the article itself (a bit like a teacher would!).

Help your journalist go back to write a better article! The article is on the next page.

Professional editorial tasks:

1. Put a line through sentences which are likely to be made up information and need to be deleted.
2. Put a star next to the unreliable source the journalist should check out in more detail.
3. (i) Highlight sentences and words where the tone and attitude of the writing need changing.
(ii) Write alternative sentences and words in the spaces underneath the lines.
4. Make a suggestion at the end for what the article could focus on instead, and a suggestion for a new headline.



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RASHFORD A YEAR ON FROM HIS PENALTY: IS HE THE MAN WE THOUGHT HE WAS?

We all remember the summer of 2021. England's bitter defeat in a penalty shootout as Italy claimed the Euro 2020 crown at Wembley. New information has now come to light that one of England's most beloved players, Marcus Rashford, has no regret at his penalty loss.

On a night of true anticipation and tension, England had looked on course for their most joyous day since 30 July 1966. But after a tense period of extra time, it was on to penalties and bitter disappointment for England manager Gareth Southgate and his players. Southgate selected three of his youngest and sharpest players to take the shots. Among them was Marcus Rashford, who some might say is as famous for his attention-seeking social media presence as he is for his football.

When Rashford's shot ricocheted off the post, you could see the disappointment on his face. But was this the real emotion of a player who cares about his national team, or was it a mask to perform for the public and the media?

A source close to Rashford contacted this newspaper to share details of a conversation they allegedly had with Rashford. In this conversation, Rashford shared his real feelings about the situation. He said missing this penalty was just another opportunity to hit the headlines, and raise his personal profile. Why? He said it was to cash-in and make more money with interviews of course!

Rashford was born in Wythenshawe and raised in Withington – located in the south of Manchester – with his siblings and his mother who worked full-time and on minimum wage to provide for her children. With these humble beginnings, have his fame and fortune gone to his head?



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Feedback to Justin

1) What information and ideas your new article could focus on instead:

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2) New headline:

3) Ideas for a photograph to include:

4) New introduction:

We must all remember the summer of 2021. How England's bid to end their 55-year wait for a major trophy ended in the agony of defeat in a penalty shootout as Italy claimed the Euro 2020 crown at Wembley.



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Extension task:

Select 2 key strategies going forwards for Ji-an to implement in her newspaper. Discuss the options on the page here. What are the pros and cons for each one? Which two will you choose?

(1) Ji-an's newspaper will have clear journalistic training and procedures:

- Fact-check all information across at least 2 sources
- Have another journalist/researcher read your work and have a critical discussion before submitting to the editor

(2) Ji-an's newspaper will use cutting edge AI

(Artificial Intelligence i.e. computer software that is programmed to make decisions).

This AI will automatically check through all articles for false information, rather than staff members doing it.

(3) Ji-an's newspaper will only allow certain sources to be used for information gathering:

- (1) Research/data published by government
- (2) Research/data published by universities
- (3) Interviews with local government officials and community leaders

(4) Ji-an's newspaper acknowledges readers should have freedom and responsibility too, so it will provide

guidance notes for readers around how to spot misinformation, and workshops for schools.

