


# Comparing tabloids with compacts/broadsheets

Compare and contrast tabloid and broadsheet/compact newspapers through their coverage of a major news story. (Specifically, Prince Harry in Afghanistan, Feb 29 2008.)

		<b>The Daily Telegraph</b>
<p>What kinds of newspapers are these? What features signal this immediately to the audience?</p>		
<p>Look at how much of the front page is made up of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Headline</li> <li>▪ Picture</li> <li>▪ Story</li> </ul> <p>What does this tell you about the newspaper and its readers?</p> <p><b>Extension task</b> What do you <i>know</i> about the typical audience for these papers? See <a href="http://www.nmauk.co.uk">www.nmauk.co.uk</a></p>		
<p>What is the headline?</p> <p>Is it complicated or simple, dispassionate or emotive? (Give quotations)</p>		
<p>What picture or pictures are shown on the front of each paper?</p> <p>How has the paper chosen to represent Prince Harry to the audience? What is your evidence for this reading?</p> <p>How does this representation support the copy? Or does the copy <i>anchor</i> the imagery?</p>		

<p>What angles have the two newspapers selected for their coverage of these two stories? What is your evidence for this?</p> <p>Do the newspapers demonstrate bias? In what way, and with what effect?</p> <p>Why might these two newspapers in particular offer different views of these events?</p>		
<p>Analyse the language used in the copy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How would you describe the <i>mode of address</i>?</li> <li>▪ Is sensational or emotive language used? (find quotations)</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Extension task</b> Briefly look at two other newspapers from the same day: one tabloid and one broadsheet/compact. What similarities and differences do you observe between these new papers and the ones you have been studying closely?</p>		
<p>Write three bullet points to identify the central differences between the two papers.</p> <p>Now write three bullet points to identify the key similarities between the two papers.</p>		
<p>Which newspaper do you think communicates most successfully with its target audience? Justify your answer.</p>		

# Newspapers: the coursework essay

***Compare and contrast tabloid and broadsheet/compact newspapers through their coverage of a major news story.***

Your essay **MUST** cover

- Representation in detail
- Institution (the codes and conventions of tabloids and broadsheets/compacts)

You should also discuss newspaper audiences.

Use the essay grid to help plan your essay.

***A-B students: don't let this limit your analysis***

You will want to use specialist vocabulary in your essay; use the glossary of terms in your exercise books to support your planning.

## ***Top Essay Tips***

- Don't repeat yourself. Make a point, offer a ***textual example*** (a *specific* example from a soap opera) **explain** and **move on**.
- Make sure you answer the question. *Compare and contrast* means you must look for similarities *and* differences, and offer **examples** to support your observations.
- Description isn't enough – that's just denotation and isn't worth many marks. You must discuss **connotations** – the *meanings* behind what you see on the page.