

January 7, 2021: Newspaper Front Pages the Day After the Attack on the U.S. Capitol

Overview

On January 6, 2021 supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the United States Capitol building after repeated claims by Trump that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him.

This activity provides an opportunity for students to examine how newspapers from different parts of the United States described the day's events in headlines the next morning.

Assessment

This activity is designed to be an exploration that allows for questioning, not necessarily one that features right or wrong answers. If you want more material on which to assess your students for a grade, you can assign them to write a response to this prompt: ***Which headline do you think best captures the events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021? Explain your choice in at least _____ [whatever number is appropriate for your grade level] sentences.***

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Examine and evaluate the words that newspapers used to describe the events that took place at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.
- Compare and contrast newspaper headlines from across the United States on January 7, 2021.
- Write a headline that shows how they think the day should have been reported.
- Write a headline that they hope will be on their local paper on January 7, 2022.

Activity

1. Show students the [slide of the eight front pages side by side](#).

Give students a few minutes to review the collection of images on their own. Ask them to note any questions they have, as well as at least two things they notice -- either about the front pages as a group, or about any individual front page.

2. If you think it will be helpful for your students (depending on their age, reading level, familiarity with U.S. geography, etc.), you may want to read through the headlines together. You might call on volunteers to read aloud the newspaper title and the headline. Help students identify where in the country the paper is from. (See alphabetical ordered list below).

3. Define or clarify any terms necessary to help your students understand what each headline says.
4. Work with your students to examine and analyze the front pages created by the various newspapers, focusing on the words and images the editors chose. These questions may help structure the conversation:
 - Which photo was used by the most newspapers? What does it show? Why do you think the editors chose this photo?
 - Do you notice any correspondence (or disconnect) between the headline and the main photo on any of the front pages?
 - Which photo do you think best captures the events of January 6? Why?
 - What are the main similarities across the collection of front pages? What are the main differences you observe?
 - What questions do you have about the content of any of the front pages, or about the collection as a whole?

Wrap-up activity

Have students write their own headline for their local paper for January 7, 2021.

Then, assign students to write what they hope the headline on their local paper might be on January 7, 2022, keeping in mind that it doesn't necessarily have to be about a political issue.

Note: Constitutional Rights Foundation would love to see what your students say! Please feel free to share their responses: crf@crf-usa.org with subject line "Headlines."

Sources and headlines transcribed here for quick checking

Albuquerque Journal (NM): 'Disbelief and dismay' grip Washington, nation

Arkansas Democrat Gazette (Little Rock): MOB STORMS U.S. CAPITOL

Fort Worth Star-Telegram (TX): ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY

Idaho Statesman (Boise): ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY

Knoxville News Sentinel (TN): US Capitol stormed

Los Angeles Times (CA): TRUMP-INCITED MOB STORMS U.S. CAPITOL

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN): INSURRECTION

The Wall Street Journal (NY): MOB STORMS CAPITOL

THURSDAY

Ex-court pick said to top AG list
Bates reportedly settles on Garland, who was sparred in 2016. — *news 10*

Vote slip past blogs
Intensifies makes enough live threats to disrupt rally. — *news 10*

Arkansas Democrat Gazette
Arkansas' NewsPapers

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021
ArkansasOnline.com

44 Pages • 6 Sections • \$2.00

MOB STORMS U.S. CAPITOL

Stamp on electoral vote goes into night
Leaders resolve their disruption

Woman shot dead by police in chaos
Lawmakers don't wear masks, hide



U.S. Capitol Police with gas masks guard a Capitol door Wednesday as protesters try to break into the House chamber in the Capitol.

Rep. Burchett: 'shots fired' as rioters overrun Congress

NEW MEXICO'S LEADING NEWS SOURCE

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021
FINAL

PROTESTERS STORM U.S. CAPITOL

'Disbelief and dismay' grip Washington, nation

Mob loyal to Trump disrupts Congress during electoral vote certification



Trump admirers storm US Capitol, halt count

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

Idaho Statesman

ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY



Trump admirers storm US Capitol, halt count

Knoxville NEWS SENTINEL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

US Capitol stormed

One woman killed; lawmakers take shelter as Trump-incited mob wreaks havoc



Rep. Burchett: 'shots fired' as rioters overrun Congress

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

MOB STORMS CAPITOL

Lawmakers reject voiding two states' votes after pro-Trump riot disrupts Congress

Woman Is Killed By Police; Members Evacuated



Trump mob disrupts count of Electoral College votes

Democratic, Republican politicians from the area denounce riots at Capitol

Los Angeles Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

TRUMP-INCITED MOB STORMS U.S. CAPITOL

4 DIE; SEVERAL OFFICERS, 1 RIOTER INJURED

Congress forced to flee, but electoral vote count resumes hours later



Trump mob disrupts count of Electoral College votes

Democratic, Republican politicians from the area denounce riots at Capitol

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

StarTribune

INSURRECTION

TRUMP-INCITED MOB VANDALIZES U.S. CAPITOL

Shocked Congress regrouped and rejects bid to foil Biden's win



Trump mob disrupts count of Electoral College votes

Democratic, Republican politicians from the area denounce riots at Capitol

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY

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