

Christie Pits

RIOT

90TH COMMEMORATION

Media Representation & Reading Bias
Teacher's Guide: Grades 8 & 10

Pre-Lesson Discussion

- The accompanying slide show discusses primary sources, secondary sources, and how to recognize bias.
- The questions featured in the slide show are useful tools for the later activities as well as good leading questions to encourage students to investigate the texts.

Activity 1 – Primary Analysis

The Toronto Daily Star front page, published on Thursday, August 17, 1933.

- Written by a reporter who was on site during the riot.
- The *Toronto Daily Star* gives a more wholistic look at the riot.
- Mentions facts we know: six hours of rioting, the Jewish vs non-Jewish baseball game that took place prior to rioting.
- Mentions that the police presence was low despite the chief receiving a warning prior to the riot.
- Less accusatory, not pointing as many fingers, stating the facts.

The Evening Telegram front page, published on Thursday, August 17, 1933.

- Written for a more elite audience, the *Telegram* is often read by the upper classes.
- Highlights a few communities that are blamed for the riot.
- More biased in its reporting

Activity 2 – Secondary Research

- Students are encouraged to explore the history pages to gather more information about the Christie Pits riot.
- Character pages, particularly *Joey the Younger*, will give background information on the events of the Christie Pits riot
- Students can also engage with other secondary sources in the resource section of the website to gather different perspectives.

Reflection

- Whose voices are missing? The Jewish perspective is not adequately explored in the mainstream press, but exists in the Jewish press (see the *Canadian Jewish Chronicle* and the *Yiddisher Zhurnal* papers in *The Legacy* section of the website.
- What other perspectives are missing: the immigrant perspective? the Italian perspective?
- Important to critique the sources we read and be aware that some information may be false or distorted.
- Different experiences lead to different perspectives and recounting of the same events.