

Critical Discourse Analysis and the Newspapers

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvs/howbiz/article-1115102/Coronation-Street-bosses-spark-outrage-hiding-cross-church-wedding-scene--avoid-offending-non-Christians.html>

<http://www.express.co.uk/comment/columnists/leo-mckinstry/85024/Why-Christianity-is-on-the-ropes-in-Labour-s-Britain>

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/nov/21/ofsted-muslim-schools-london-closure-threat>

For each article:

- Count up the number of references to Christianity, Islam, threat, and faith.
- Look at what words are close to 'Christianity' and what words are close to 'Islam'.
- Who is the 'we' and who are the 'they'?
- How is each article structured? Where is the key point?
- What metaphors has the author used? Why?
- What is the big story in each of these articles?

Activities:

Create a graph that shows the references to Christianity, Islam, threat, and faith in each article. Write a paragraph interpreting your results (i.e. what are these numbers telling us?)

Write a tweet (160 characters) that sums up the main story of the article. Use hashtags to highlight key words. You could write two tweets, each one representing a different perspective on the story.

Write a newspaper article telling your readers how to do critical discourse analysis, and explaining how it will help them to be critical of views of religion they read in the media. Use some examples.

Create an infogram that shows your findings from these articles. For ideas, have a look at <http://www.schrockguide.net/infographics-as-an-assessment.html> or <http://www.creativebloq.com/graphic-design-tips/information-graphics-1232836> for some ideas to get you started.