EXERCISE 3: DATA

Divide the class into groups of four or five. Each group needs to have access to at least one computer

Give each group a number or a percentage to search for online. Some searches will take students several pages into their search engines to find relevant stories.

Examples could be along the lines of:

- Stories that are about 1%
- Stories that are about 50%
- Stories with 100 in them
- Stories that talk about 'greater than' or 'less than'
- A half of …
- A quarter of …
- Stories with 1 million in them
- Or choose your own examples

When the students have picked 3 or 4 stories, they should re-write each story interpreting the data in a different way. The data stays the same, but the emphasis of the story may change.

When they have completed their bulletin, they read it out to the rest of the class.

Then, they swap their bulletin with another group who now has to re-write the stories again, but this time making them as sensational and extreme as the data allows. If they are unsure of the details, ask them to search online again and see if they can find the story.

Once the bulletin has been re-written, it is read to the rest of the class.

Students can then discuss how different each story may seem depending on how the data is interpreted.