

Core Activity Sheet 3.2

How the Media Reports Football Violence

Some people argue that the media does not just report what happens but actually helps to cause it. They argue that the way newspapers report football violence has changed over the years and this helps to create the problem itself.

Here are two examples:

The referee's decisions had caused considerable dissatisfaction, especially that disallowing a goal to Loughborough in the first half, and at the close of the game he met with a very unfavourable reception, a section of the crowd hustling him and it was stated that he was struck.

(Leicester Daily Mercury, 3 April 1899)

Another idea might be to put these people in 'hooligan compounds' every Saturday afternoon ... They should be herded together preferably in a public place. That way they could be held up to ridicule and exposed for what they are – mindless morons with no respect for other people's property or well-being. We should make sure we treat them like animals – for their behaviour proves that's what they are.'

(Daily Mirror, 4 April 1977)

1. Which report gives you the most facts about what actually happened and how many people were actually involved?
2. What words are used to describe the people causing the trouble in the second report?
3. What do you think of the suggestions made in the second report for coping with football violence?
4. How does each of the articles make you feel?

Information from Social Issues Research Centre (www.sirc.org)