Media and Multimodal Texts

Teacher Alert

These resources accompany the Years 7 & 8 and Years 9 & 10 English units of work. They are intended for a high school audience. Included texts are listed for the purposes of critical analysis of texts from real life incidents, and are NOT intended to invoke shock or fear in students; or to portray a ‘normalised’ view that young people’s behaviour is usually negative, inappropriate or irresponsible.

Please be aware that the contents of some of these texts involve incidents on the rail network which caused serious injury or death. It is possible there will be students in your class with first-hand experience of such issues, and discretion is advised. It is recommended that students’ individual circumstances are taken into account wherever possible.

The media reports listed describe rail related incidents and initiatives under the following categories:

Trespass | Graffiti | Level Crossings | Points of view | Safety measures

Trespass

Teen survives train game
Teen plays “chicken” with moving train.
Illawarra Mercury, NSW
09 Sep 2013

Rail safety warning issued
High school girls play chicken on tracks.
The Examiner, TAS
23 March 2013

Risking death – TasRail hits out
Rail operator condemns group of young people behaving dangerously around trains.
The Examiner, TAS
9 July 2012

Jenna Betti, 14, killed after being sucked into train’s vacuum while retrieving her phone in California
Teen trespassing on track dies trying to retrieve her phone.
The Daily Telegraph, NSW
March 05 2014
A precious life lost in a moment of play
Girl (9) killed died when she was hit by a fast-moving train.
The Daily Telegraph, NSW
27 January 2011

Track trespass one of several – Community outrage at train teens
Teenagers trespass using track as a short cut. Video
Illawarra Mercury, NSW
9 Sep 2013

Train stopped
Teenage girl trespassing on tracks delays trains.
Maitland Mercury, NSW
28 Aug 2012
(Not available online)

Girl’s feet severed in McIver train station horror accident
Teenage girl (16) injured trying to cross train lines at an intersection.
Perth Now News, WA
March 03, 2014

On a dangerous track
People fail to understand the risk of trespassing on tracks.
The Advocate, TAAS
12 July 2012

Rail death a tragic accident
A cane train kills a man lying on the edge of a railway track.
Sunshine Coast Daily, QLD
27 Aug 2012

Train checked after man climbs over wagons
Train stopped when young man observed climbing over wagons.
The Advocate, TAS
5 April 2013

Train ride death risk
Train driver speaks out about teen train surfers.
The Advocate, TAS
16 January 2013

Teenage fools risk their lives in train surfing madness at Mordialloc Station
Teenagers train surfing.
The Courier, VIC
27 March 2014

Boy, 13, killed by train while running across tracks at Riddells Creek railway station
Boy struck and killed as her ran across tracks trying to change platforms.
The Advertiser, SA
14 October 2013

Sixteen year old killed by train named
Three friends out walking, a boy and a girl - crossed the railway line, but a third teenager was struck by a northbound freight train and died.
The Advertiser, SA
17 December 2013

Train drivers shocked by acts of stupidity
Man and three children run in front of train.
The Advocate, TAS
6 February 2014

Man killed by train, children found wandering on highway
Man killed taking short cut across track.
The Age, VIC
8 April 2014

Man hit by train wouldn't have heard it coming
Mother urges parents to tell children 'don't listen to [head]phones while you're walking'.
The Age, VIC
27 November 2013

Train windscreen smash
The windscreen of a freight train was damaged by youths throwing rocks.
Kilmore Free Press, VIC.
15 Jun 2012
(Not available online)
Graffiti

Train death of tagger should spur education program
NSW Coroner recommends increase in public funding for education programs about dangers of trespassing in the rail corridor.
Inner West Courier, NSW
29 January 2013
(Not available online)

'It took a second and Tre's no longer with us': coroner rules on tagger's death
A summary of the Coroner's court recommendations after death of graffiti vandal Tre Toman.
The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW
24 January 2013

Rail tagger’s tragic talent
Tagger (18) killed by train in railway underpass.
The Daily Telegraph, NSW
25 January 2013

Queensland Rail program stamps out graffiti at Hemmant train station
Station master’s engagement with students stops graffiti incidents - Queensland Rail's community education RESPECT initiative.
Brisbane East News, QLD
10 January 2014

Graffiti express
Graffiti attack tags new trains before they are in use.
Newcastle Herald, NSW
13 Oct 2012
(Not available online)

Buzz beats graffiti vandals
State Rail [sic] trials high-pitched Mosquito devices designed to drive young people away from graffiti hot spots.
The Daily Telegraph, NSW
28 May 2013

Vandals ignore safety advice
Graffiti attacks continue on rail corridor.
The Examiner, TAS
26 March 2014

Graffiti vandal made bankrupt after failing to pay clean-up bill
Refusing to pay a court imposed $25,000 clean-up bill has resulted in the graffiti gang member responsible being made bankrupt.
The Herald Sun, VIC
15 November 2013

Huge graffiti spree derails VLine train
Graffiti wrecks a V/Line train carriage. Mural (25m) will cost thousands of dollars to scrub off.
The Herald Sun, VIC
24 April 2014

Police investigate after vigilante films clash with train vandals in Melbourne
Vigilante films train vandals and puts footage on YouTube
The Herald Sun, VIC
11 June 2013

Level crossings
Youth braked too late to stop fatal train collision
A teenager (17) collides with a commuter train at an uncontrolled rail crossing.
Stuff Dominion Post, NZ
18 Feb 2013

Rail crossing horror smash near Morrinsville
Elderly driver (76) in collision with a freight train at protected level crossing with lights and bells in good working order.
Waikato Times, NZ
02 Jul 2012

Ballarat police baffled at pedestrian boom gate behaviour
Police amazed by the number of people who risked their lives by illegally crossing train tracks.
Ballarat Courier, VIC
14 June 2012

Port Kembla crossing on track for safety
Education shown to be effective way of reducing danger as research shows accidents at level crossings are largely a driver behaviour issue.
Illawarra Mercury, NSW
21 Jun 2013
Motorists urged to pay attention
Police officers target motorists to come to a complete stop at level crossings without boom gates.
Katherine Times, NT
14 Aug 2013
(Not available online)

Killed by early train
*Man died after being hit by a train.*
The Daily Telegraph, NSW
21 Jun 2012
(Not available online)

Knocked over hard on road to independence
*Young disabled woman hit by train after wheelchair stuck in crossing. Different crossing surfaces are needed for the disabled.*
New Zealand Herald, NZ
20 Mar 2013

Heroic attempts fail to stop rail accident
*Rescuers try to pull trapped woman from wheelchair after chair becomes stuck in tracks.*
Waikato Times, NZ
26 Feb 2013
(Not available online)

Allansford man, 22, dies in railway crossing crash
*Footballer dies when his vehicle collides with an empty goods train.*
The Standard, VIC
20 March 2013

Pair’s lucky escape from train collision
*Woman fails to observe train and drives into path of train.*
The Advocate, TAS
16 August 2010

North’s drivers run rail crossing gauntlet
*The North has by far the highest number of boom gate accidents outside of metropolitan areas.*
Townsville Bulletin, QLD
11 March 2014
Points of view

Other perspectives on impact and trauma after a rail incident or collision

When their world turned upside down
A parent describes the effect of the death of her daughter (9) who had climbed onto the railway track and was hit by an express train.
Illawarra Mercury, NSW
11 June 2011

Victim's mother wants reparation
The mother of a young woman who was hit by a train when her wheelchair got stuck at a railway crossing says people are responsible for the tragedy and should pay reparation.
New Zealand Herald, Auckland
20 Mar 2013

Editorial
Train drivers' trauma caused by reckless decision making of others.
The Advocate, TAS
01 Apr 2013
(Not available online)

Death on the rails: Flinders train driver tells of trauma
Train driver describes his experiences and nightmares.
The Advocate, TAS
9 August 2013

TasRail plea after fatal crash
TasRail reiterates plea for motorists to take care at both passive and active crossings and to think about the experience of the train driver approaching a level crossing.
The Examiner, TAS
6 May 2012

Hospital staff set up critical care demo
Young farmer (18) describes time in critical care after being hit by a train when driving a tractor.
Waikato Times, NZ
14 Jun 2012
http://www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/farming/fieldays/7100707/Hospital-staff-set-up-critical-care-demo

Agencies pass buck in taking any blame
Kiwi Rail takes the blame for last month’s tragic accident at Morningside.
New Zealand Herald, NZ
20 Mar 2013
Train pranks rile drivers parents asked for halp [sic]
Tasmanian train drivers fed up with vandalism on tracks during school holidays.
The Mercury, TAS
22 April 2014

Safety measures
Technologies, strategies and education

Push for safer level crossing technology
A radio break-in system that warns vehicles to stop as they approach level crossings is being considered to make level crossings safer.
The Herald Sun, VIC
16 September 2012

Safety bid on track
Radio break-in technology “hacks” car stereos as they approach rail crossings to broadcast safety messages.
The Townsville Bulletin, QLD
02 Apr 2013
(Not available online)

Hi-tech crossings
New safety measures and warning signs, trialled at level crossing.
The Chronicle (Toowoomba), QLD
30 Mar 2013
(Not available online)

Hopes radio puts an end to railway crossing close calls
Pixie radio technology break-in system is trialled at the Malu Quarry Rd level rail crossing.
The Chronicle, QLD
20 December 2013

Audible warning at Grandchester crossing
New audible alarms support sight-impaired teen remain active in the community.
Moreton Border News, QLD
14 Jun 2013
(Not available online)

Pollies had crossing their sights for Brendan
Local railway crossing has audible alarms installed.
Queensland Times, QLD
Rail crossing signs 'need replacing'
Coroner recommends all Tasmania’s railway crossing signs be replaced following an investigation into the death of a man at a railway crossing.
The Examiner, TAS
04 Sep 2013
(Not available online)

Rail crossing separation must be part of the final plan
A safe and efficient central city rail transport requires a complete "grade separation" of rail, road and foot traffic. This will involve funding for pedestrian overpasses, street closures, rail cuttings or tunnels.
New Zealand Herald, NZ
01 Mar 2013

Safety focus
Queensland Rail’s Community Engagement team remind local residents not to ignore signs, lights and boom gates at level crossings.
The Advocate (Ayr), QLD
29 Jun 2012
(Not available online)

Trains can’t stop quickly you can
Rio Tinto supports Rail Safety week.
Pilbara News, WA
31 Jul 2013
(Not available online)

Rail warning after teen girl killed
KiwiRail urges people to be cautious around rail lines. "Every single death or injury on the railway network is avoidable if people approaching it actively recognise the hazards that exist and obey the warning signs and signals."
New Zealand Herald, NZ
18 Feb 2013
(Not available online)

Rail safety team
Queensland Rail’s community engagement team visits shopping centre to drive home the message that ignoring level crossings could be potentially deadly.
The Chronicle (Toowoomba), QLD
28 Aug 2012
(Not available online)

New safety system at rail crossings
Blog comments
The Chronicle (Toowoomba), QLD
02 Apr 2013
(Not available online)
Police safety drive
Police target known trouble spots on Melbourne’s rail network after a teenager was killed by a train while walking on rail tracks, despite the train sounding its whistle. A pair of headphones was found close by.
The Saturday Age, VIC
30 Jun 2012
(Not available online)

Don’t go off the rails
Footy fans attending the Grand Final urged to take care as new figures reveal an average of one person a week is hit by Melbourne trains and trams.
The Herald Sun, VIC
27 Sep 2013
(Not available online)

Farmers warned to watch for trains
Farmers advised to take safety precautions when working next to active railways during busy harvest season.
Terang Express, VIC
05 Dec 2013
(Not available online)

Fatal crash crossing upgrade
Railway crossing in recent fatality has been earmarked for an upgrade with flashing lights and boom barriers.
Warnambool Standard, VIC
20 Mar 2013

Sucrogen’s safety concern
School holidays a high risk time for cane trains.
Whitsunday Guardian, QLD
27 Jun 2012
(Not available online)

Look out for cane trains
School holidays a high risk time for cane trains.
Daily Mercury, QLD
28 June 2012

Cane rail safety
Parents reminded to tell children about danger from cane trains.
Tully Times, QLD
28 Jun 2012
(Not available online)
Pedestrians risk lives to cross tracks
Victoria Police and V/Line launch a blitz on pedestrian and motorist behaviour around level crossings after a string of recent incidents and near-misses on train tracks.
Ballarat Courier, VIC
15 June 2012
(Not available online)

Daredevils still putting lives at risk
TasRail urge public to take care as train drivers report many concerning incidents on and around the tracks.
The Advocate, TAS
01 Apr 2013

Crossing safety to get boost
GPS technology used to warn drivers of approaching trains.
The Advocate, TAS
01 Apr 2013
(Not available online)

Werribee rail black spot changes urged on level crossing
Changes recommended to dangerous level crossing after accident.
The Age, VIC
26 December 2013

In the driving seat to cut rail crossing death toll
Coroner’s report calls for safety systems that will support the road user to make safer decisions at level crossings.
The Age, VIC

Putting rail safety on the right track
New wireless technology development allows all vehicles to communicate and exchange information creating 360-degree driver awareness at level crossings.
The Age, VIC
21 September 2010

Here’s how 472 of us were almost crossed out
Queensland Rail’s new campaign to raise awareness of safety at level crossings uses crosses to represent 472 recorded near-misses at level crossings.
MX Brisbane, QLD
27 Jun 2012
(Not available online)