

3. Give students another scenario to report on, such as:

- This year, prom will not be held on the school premises. Rather than a DJ, a band has been hired to play. Ticket prices will cost \$50 extra.

Again, in their small groups, students will write a short blurb for their town's paper regarding prom from their perspective:

- Group 1: Parent Prom Planning Committee, who likes the changes since they want to make the prom a very exclusive, high-class event in hopes of attracting wealthier families to the school system.
- Group 2: "Students for Students", a student lead group who is concerned less wealthy students will not be able to attend prom due to the changes.
- Group 3: School administrators, who hope cut back on prom cost while charging more; this will create extra revenue for updating the library collection.
- Group 4: "Rock Till' You Drop", the band that has been hired to play the prom. This is your first gig and you hope it will be the start of a big local career.
- Group 5: "DJ Jazzy Jake and Company", the DJ who was not rehired to play this year's prom.

After a few minutes, again have students share their blurbs and discuss:

- How did news of the same event change when given by people with different agendas?
- Can you think of any events, either current or historical, that have been 'spun' by politicians?
- Is it ethical to spin a situation in one's favor, or towards one's own agenda?
- When dealing with politics, do you think it is possible to say something neutral about a political situation?

### **Practicing Political Spin**