



Education activity — ‘Following the action’



This photograph shows rugby league commentator Rex Mossop at a match between the Parramatta Eels and Balmain Tigers in 1987.

Photograph courtesy David Trood/Fairfaxphotos

Developments in broadcast technology have allowed rugby league fans to follow matches away from the grounds where they are played. Here are some activities for your students that relate to the broadcast of rugby league matches.

- Using the *League of Legends* website http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/league_of_legends/ and other online resources, students can investigate the development of rugby league match broadcast technology. They can then transfer their findings to a timeline, starting with 1908. Ask them to extend the timeline to the year 2108 and show what technology might be used to broadcast rugby league matches in the future.
- Have students write a fictitious five-minute commentary for a rugby league game. Students might like to work in pairs. Allow them to rehearse the commentary and then present it to the class. Record it if possible with a sound recorder or video camera. Obtain some real commentary from a match and compare student pieces with that commentary. Direct the students to analyse the use of language, voice tone and phrasing in the professional commentary and look for what makes a successful commentary.
- Students can investigate the commentary styles of current professional rugby league commentators. They can then compare and contrast their styles and discuss the relative merits of each style. They could try a piece of commentary in each style and assess which one is the easiest to imitate.

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