

Vox populi

LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 5

 Learning Object 4: *Kate's article*

Exercise 1

Sample answers:

1.1 What would you say if Anna stopped you on the street and asked your opinion about child stars?

That is a very complicated issue. You do read stories about child stars who are exploited by the people around them, and sometimes they are exposed to experiences that aren't appropriate for people their age.

I think people should have the right to at least have an input into decisions that directly affect them whenever possible. However, when you are very young, you don't necessarily have the experience or understanding to make a well-informed decision, and so would need the support and guidance of more informed or experienced advisors.

1.2 What are the main ethical concerns raised by the people Anna interviewed? Make a dot-point list of the issues they raised.

- independence and freedom
- drugs and alcohol
- impact on education
- impact on family relationships and friendships
- being 'used' by others
- potential loss of innocence
- importance of being happy
- importance of childhood
- legal restrictions on child labour
- loss of perspective/keeping your 'feet on the ground'
- inability of a child to cope with financial responsibilities
- supporting those who are gifted or talented

1.3 Are there any ethical concerns about child stars that weren't raised by at least one of the respondents? If so, what is that issue?

I think that one issue that none of these people raised and that is very pertinent, is a person's right to make decisions about their own life. Even though children are young, I think they should at least have a say in decisions that are made about their lives, particularly when those decisions will have a major impact on their future.

1.4 Which person's opinion do you think is the most reasonable or balanced? Give reasons for your answer.

I don't think any of the responses are very balanced. Most of the people who were interviewed seem to have a strong opinion about whether being a child star is good or bad, and offer evidence to support that opinion. However, perhaps the most reasonable answer is Dede's, since he asks an important question about why there are different rules for children depending on which industry they work in.

1.5 Which person's response is most similar to your own opinion? Use quotations from their comments, and from your response to Exercise 1.1, to support your answer.

My response is most similar to Hiromi's response. Hiromi says, '*Kita mendengar cerita-cerita yang buruk mengenai bintang cilik*' (You hear terrible stories about child stars) and I wrote, 'You do read stories about child stars who are exploited by the people around them', which is a very similar statement. On the other hand, I wrote that child stars, 'are exposed to experiences that aren't appropriate for people their age', which in many ways is similar to Bambang's response, '*Saya berpendapat bahwa menjadi tenar bukan sesuatu yang baik buat siapa pun, apalagi kalau itu anak muda yang*

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mudah terpengaruh (I don't think being famous is such a good thing for anyone, let alone an impressionable young person) as well as Hiromi's statement: '*Saya pikir sangat penting bahwa anak-anak mendapat kesempatan untuk menjadi anak-anak, masa di mana mereka memiliki kepolosan dan kebebasan*' (I think it's important to be allowed to have a real childhood. To have a period of innocence and freedom).

1.6 What does Sarah's response suggest about her values, attitudes and beliefs? What assumptions has she made about being rich or famous to inform her answer?

Sarah's response suggests that she believes being rich and famous is a good thing, and that having a lot of money would be fun. She emphasises the things she would be able to do and buy with a lot of money. She mentions her friends, which implies that being famous would include having lots of friends around you. She doesn't mention her family, however, which suggests that she thinks they wouldn't be travelling around the world with her, but also might imply that she wouldn't focus on supporting them, or supporting worthy causes. This suggests that she values having fun more than she values family or responsibility for supporting charitable works or worthy causes.

Sarah talks about '*menikmati perhatian yang diberikan orang*', which makes the assumption that getting lots of attention would be part of being famous, and that it would be pleasurable. She doesn't mention the work she would have to put into rehearsals or performances, which suggests that she assumes being famous isn't very hard work.

1.7 What does Mariam's response suggest about her values, attitudes and beliefs? What assumptions has she made about being rich or famous?

Mariam's response is very different to Sarah's. She is concerned about the welfare of child stars, and suggests that their affairs should be managed by a parent or guardian. This reflects a belief that children are not capable of effectively managing their own affairs. Mariam's response sounds like one a parent would offer; it focuses on caring for the child star's best interests rather than on what it would be like to be a child star herself.

Mariam expresses her concern that a young person might engage in three types of inappropriate behaviour — taking drugs, drinking, or wasting their income. These concerns are based on the widely shared belief that child stars are more likely to be exposed to drugs and alcohol than ordinary young people. It is also based on the belief that, because they are quite young, child stars would not be able to make informed choices about how to spend their money and should be provided with suitable guidance.

1.8 Do you think most Australians share the same assumptions? Why or why not?

Generally, the answers people give are based on the assumptions that child stars, and other celebrities, are exposed to drugs and alcohol, have a lot of money and freedom, and are popular. There seems to also be an assumption that a child star's life would not be like a 'normal' child's life, with its focus on family, friends and school work, and that a child star would be less likely to be protected and well -cared for by their parents or guardians.

I think many Australians would share these perceptions. I think Australians generally perceive celebrities, but particularly rock stars and film stars, as leading lives that are markedly different to those of everyday people. In particular, I think there are assumptions that they live lives of luxury and self-indulgence, even selfishness, rather than working hard and devoting themselves to family or community.

I think these ideas about celebrities are stereotypes that are often reinforced by the kind of gossipy news about celebrities reported in magazines, the Internet, and on TV. These kinds of shows often focus on the more negative aspects of stars' lives, such as their relationship problems, emotional troubles, and outrageous or embarrassing behaviour.

I think some of the stereotypes and assumptions we have about actors and musicians are also based on centuries-old romantic ideas about 'suffering for your art', and the need for artists to expose themselves to a range of experiences in order to be 'inspired' to create art, and so on.

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Exercise 2

Sample answers:

2.1 Write as many ideas as you can for ethical issues that you could use as the basis for your vox pops. You should aim to come up with 10 or more ideas.

- school uniforms
- part-time jobs for students
- technology in the classroom
- peer pressure
- stress and study
- single-sex versus co-ed schools
- public versus private education
- tuckshop or school canteen food
- favourite band/musician
- Internet use and freedoms
- family and school
- mobile phones at school
- importance of homework
- how much extra study students should do

2.2 Highlight the six issues from your answer to Exercise 2.1 that you think will be of most interest to your readers.

See answer to 2.1.

2.3 Draft one question, in Indonesian, for each issue you have selected in Exercise 2.2.

- Menurut Anda, seberapa pentingnya mengerjakan PR sebagai bagian dari sebuah pendidikan?
- Berapa besarnya pengaruh 'apa kata teman' dalam hidup Anda?
- Menurut Anda, apa dampak bekerja paruh-waktu terhadap prestasi pelajar di sekolah?
- Menurut Anda, peranan apa yang harus dimainkan oleh keluarga pelajar di sekolah? Apa pendapat Anda mengenai makanan yang disediakan di kantin sekolah?
- Menurut Anda, peranan apa yang harus dimainkan oleh teknologi di dalam kelas?