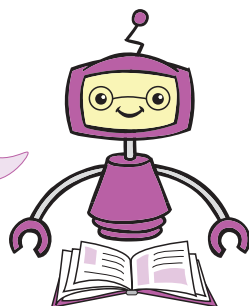


Vox populi

Sometimes it's interesting to find out what the average person thinks about important issues. In English, we use the term vox pop, which is short for vox populi, (voice of the people), to describe short, impromptu interviews. Let's find out what the people on the street think about child stars ...



LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 5
Learning Object 4: *Kate's article*

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 2

Module 5 Work Sheet 7: *I beg to differ*
Module 5 Work Sheet 10: *You can't please everybody*

1 Vox populi

A 'vox pop' is the popular term for a series of short interviews with a range of people. You may see voces populi in print, on television, or hear them on the radio. In a typical vox pop, the same question is put to a series of people, and their responses are presented with very little commentary from the interviewer.

Some of the common features of vox pops (or *voces populi*) are:

- While most formal interviews are with experts or people whose opinions are respected, a vox pop is about getting the opinions of non-specialists. People just like you.
- Vox pops are impromptu — the people being interviewed are often approached while they are going about their daily business.
- A vox pop is often a series of very brief interviews, with as few as one question being asked.
- Often vox pops are conducted by journalists on the streets, in shopping malls, at train stations, and in other public spaces.

2 Suara rakyat

In Indonesia, vox pops (*suara rakyat*) are commonly used to complement the news on radio, television or in the print media. For example, when there was talk about the government increasing the price of fuel, vox pops were conducted with people from a range of social backgrounds.

Whether or not the interviewees' comments represented the opinions of the people depends on several things. Indonesia's national television and radio, *TVRI* and *RRI*, have guidelines on what can or cannot be aired.

With the advent of the Internet, however, many Indonesian people are able to read, share or even

create content that is not subject to censorship. There is some concern in Indonesia regarding the influence of the social media — so much so that recently President Yudhoyono gave a speech about how social media has contributed to political unrest.

Internet content is monitored and censored in Indonesia according to guidelines put down in the electronic information and transaction law, and telecommunications law, which targets 'negative content'. One example of the government exercising this power occurred during Ramadan in 2012, when sites that were considered offensive to those of Muslim faith were blocked.

Exercise

Exercise 1

In Module 1, Learning Object 4, *What kind of entertainer are you?* Anna was preparing to interview a new singing star who had shot to stardom at just fifteen. Ever since, Anna has been wondering about the ethical questions that surround child stars. She has taken her voice recorder to the shopping mall to find out what other people think.

Read Anna's question and the responses she receives and then answer the questions that follow.

Anna: Apa pendapat Anda mengenai anak-anak atau remaja yang menjadi selebriti tenar dan mempunyai banyak uang?

'Hebat! Saya juga ingin menjadi kaya dan tenar. Saya bisa terbang ke mana-mana dengan teman-teman saya naik pesawat terbang pribadi, keliling dunia dan menikmati perhatian yang diberikan orang!' (Sarah, 15 tahun)

'Saya pikir penting bahwa ada orangtua atau wali yang menjaga mereka. Seseorang yang bisa menjamin bahwa mereka tidak menggunakan narkoba atau mabuk-mabukan, dan bahwa uang hasil keringat mereka tidak dipakai untuk hal-hal yang tidak berguna.' (Mariam, 44 tahun)

'Mungkin tidak apa-apa, tapi saya pikir barangkali tergantung orangnya. Kalau itu anak saya, saya tidak mau dia mengabaikan keluarganya, atau pendidikannya, atau juga teman-temannya karena terjaring dalam dunia seperti itu. Saya berpendapat bahwa menjadi tenar bukan sesuatu yang baik buat siapa pun, apalagi kalau itu anak muda yang mudah terpengaruh. Susah untuk menjadi realistis dalam kehidupan seperti itu.' (Bambang, 53 tahun)

'Tapi sebenarnya masalahnya bukan umur, kan? Maksud saya, kalau seseorang cukup berbakat untuk menjadi tenar di dunia pada umur berapa pun, seharusnya kita mengucapkan selamat kepada mereka. Saya tidak peduli apa orang yang saya dengarkan berumur 10, 20 atau 100 tahun, yang penting musiknya enak.' (Sinta, 25 tahun).

'Sebenarnya, saya tidak tahu. Kita punya undang-undang mengenai pekerja anak, bukan? Jadi kalau begitu, seandainya menjadi selebriti dianggap sebagai pekerjaan, susah untuk dimengerti bagaimana pekerjaan yang seperti itu dianggap ok sementara pekerjaan lainnya tidak ok. Misalnya, orang dianggap melanggar hukum bila mempekerjakan anak berumur 12 tahun di pertambangan batubara, jadi mengapa orang boleh mempekerjakan anak seumur itu sebagai aktor, penyanyi atau pemusik? Seharusnya ada undang-undang yang mencegah terjadinya hal itu.' (Dede, 24 tahun).

'Kita mendengar cerita-cerita yang buruk mengenai bintang cilik. Bagaimana tidak bahagianya mereka, bagaimana orang menarik keuntungan dari mereka dan mengambil uang mereka dan yang seperti itu. Mereka juga harus lebih cepat menjadi dewasa. Terlalu cepat. Saya pikir sangat penting bahwa anak-anak mendapat kesempatan untuk menjadi anak-anak, masa di mana mereka memiliki kepolosan dan kebebasan.' (Hiromi, 19 tahun)

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

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

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1.3 Are there any ethical concerns about child stars that weren't raised by at least one of the respondents? If you can think of any, write them down. If you don't know, how could you find out?

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

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

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

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

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1.8 Do you think most Australians share the same assumptions as the people Anna interviewed?
Why or why not?

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