

Where the girls are

LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 8

Learning Object 3: *Don't mention it*

Exercise 1

Sample answers:

- 1.1 What are the main ideas in the text? Summarise, in English, the main ideas from each paragraph in Ani's post.**

Introduction

This paragraph includes a rhetorical question about women's sports coverage.

Body paragraph 1

Coverage of international sport focuses on men's sports.

Body paragraph 2

A rhetorical question about whether the situation is fair.

Body paragraph 3

Men's sports and male players attract more money.

Body paragraph 4

Gender equity in sports does not exist.

Conclusion

A call for increased equity via three different measures: increased reporting, pay and investment.

- 1.2 Were there particular words or phrases that you found difficult to understand? What strategies did you use to understand these words or phrases or to understand the text as a whole, despite not being sure what some words meant?**

I did not understand what the phrase *biang keladi* meant. Before I looked it up in the dictionary, I tried to see from the context if I could understand its meaning. First of all, there was the particle *si* in front

of the phrase, so I knew that the phrase referred to a person. Secondly, one of the bloggers wrote that *si biang keladi* was just trying to 'wind you up'. From these I could deduce that this phrase must refer to a person who is trying to cause trouble or is a troublemaker.

- 1.3 What does Ani Waluyo think of international sports coverage?**

Ani thinks that there is not enough coverage of professional women's sports.

- 1.4 What differences in the coverage of men's and women's sports does she identify? Give examples.**

She identifies the difference in the amount of coverage in the media, especially during prime time and the differences in pay, sponsorship and funding for men's and women's sports.

- 1.5 Who agrees with Ani? Who disagrees with her?**

VITAFIT agrees with Ani. CEWEKJAGOAN agrees with some of what she says, but also wonders why women's sports aren't as popular. ANONIM strongly disagrees with Ani. BUGARBARENG doesn't state whether they agree or disagree.

- 1.6 What changes does Ani think should be made?**

Ani thinks that three changes should take place: increased coverage of women's sports, more money for women players and increased investment in women's sports.

Exercise 2

Sample answers:

2.1 What does ANONIM think about women's sport? What evidence do they provide to support their position? How relevant is it to the focus of the blog?

ANONIM seems to strongly dislike women's soccer. They don't provide any objective evidence, only their own opinions and feelings.

The post is very relevant to the discussion, even though it takes a contrary position.

I think it is possible to infer that ANONIM enjoys a heated debate and perhaps often posts similarly incendiary comments.

2.2 What do you think about people posting anonymously?

I think it shows a lack of courage and honesty. In my own experience, people sometimes post anonymously when their comments are cruel, hurtful or inflammatory. I suspect that this is because they can 'hide' behind their anonymity, whereas if they were posting with their real name or with an ID that was linked to their online presence, then they would be more likely to moderate their comments.

On my own personal blog, people cannot post anonymously and all of the comments are filtered. When someone first comments on my blog, I have the option of approving just that comment or approving their comments on future posts without needing to check them.

I think this is a great way to avoid having my own blog become a forum for inappropriate discussions, but I can also see that it is a form of censorship.

2.3 Why do you think Ani did not intervene in these exchanges?

Ani may not have participated in the discussion that arose from her blog post for a range of reasons. She may have been away from her computer; she may have enjoyed watching an argument develop, possibly drawing more attention to her blog; she may have felt uncomfortable about what was happening or unsure how to calm the situation down.

2.4 What does BUGARBARENG mean when they say that people posting on the blog should be more sportsmanlike?

Behaving in a sportsmanlike manner or practising good sportsmanship, is a core value for most sports players. It refers to behaviours that make competitive sport friendly and mutually respectful. Some practices I associate with good sportsmanship include playing by the rules, not sledging (bad-mouthing) other players and being a good loser.

In the posts on Ani's blog, when some of the people are speaking rudely (and therefore are behaving badly), BUGARBARENG reminds them that good sportsmanship is a core value for people who play sport, inferring that, although it may be appropriate to engage in competition, one should do so in a mutually respectful and polite manner.

2.5 What underlying attitudes do the various posts reveal about the people who display those attitudes? Cite examples from the text that support your ideas.

The overall conversation reflects the passionate nature of the debate around sport and the way that fans, such as the people involved in the debate, hold strong opinions and enjoy discussing them.

In terms of the individuals and their personal attitudes:

Ani appears to be passionate about women's sport, in particular. This is demonstrated by the fact that she posts a lengthy statement about coverage of international women's sports on her blog.

ANONIM appears to be a troublemaker who probably enjoys what my dad calls 'a good stoush'. He uses harsh, rude language and makes stereotyping, sexist comments, such as: *Dan bidang keahlian olahraga Anda adalah...? Mengeringkan rambut dengan alat pengering rambut? Mengecet kuku?*

VITAFIT also appears to care a great deal about women's sport. She is also dismissive of ANONIM, saying that they are: *TONG KOSONG NYARING BUNYINYA.*

CEWEKJAGOAN is supportive of Ani's position, but also suggests that more questions could be asked about why women's sport is or isn't popular.

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BUGARBARENG takes a different tack to the other commenters, trying to calm down the escalating argument by calling on people to be more sporting in their comments.