



## ACTIVITY 1

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Read the content for this topic then answer the following questions to see how much you understand about what you read.

1. What word in the text means a 'group of individuals around the same age, having similar ideas, problems and attitudes.'
2. What does the story suggest you can use different genres and media to do?
3. At school what opportunities do students have to voice their opinion and help make decisions?
4. What can 'having a voice' help you do?
5. If you are good at voicing your opinion you may be considered to be naturally what?
6. List three things that may inhibit a person from voicing their opinion.
7. Why do you think it is important to be clear and confident when expressing your point of view?
8. It is important to have the \_\_\_\_\_ before speaking.
9. List three forums in which you can voice your opinion.
10. What is meant by ' your opinions don't have to be popular?'



## ACTIVITY 2

### EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWPOINT

Some students are often shy in expressing their viewpoints. This seems due to a number of reasons but each of the reasons listed below has been jumbled. Re-write each statement so it makes sense.

- Students on have an the opinion subject don't
- Students have an think, but are worried what the other about opinion students say might or
- Students exactly have don't an opinion, but feel mean they can say what they
- Students forget begin giving their opinion want, but what they to say
- Other, more timid actively participating students, express feel confident in their opinions and them clearly making the less confident students more

List some other reasons you think students may not feel confident about expressing their opinion.





## ACTIVITY 3

### IN YOUR OPINION

Sometimes discussion over controversial issues might arise in the classroom which allows your students' to voice their opinions and their feelings.

When speaking on tough to tackle topics encourage students to use sentence starters like:-

**In my view ...**

**Speaking for myself ...**

**In my opinion ...**

**I'd suggest that ...**

**I'd like to point out ...**

Try discussing some of these topics

- Using animals in medical research helps people
- Women will never be equal to men in the workplace
- Celebrities and sporting stars earn too much money
- War is never an option for solving international disputes
- Curfews keep teens out of trouble
- We are becoming too dependent on computers
- Smoking should be banned worldwide
- Single-sex schools are not advantageous
- Homework is harmful
- Software piracy is not really a crime
- Obesity is a disease
- Video games contribute to youth violence
- Steroids should be accepted in sports
- Corporal punishment should be allowed in schools



## ACTIVITY 4

### WORDS AT WORK

In Wordy News this week we defined the word GRIPES which was used in the following way:

### Volume of gripes revealed

**Make a list of eight synonyms for the word gripe and use them in the following sentences to replace the underlined word.**

**eg complaint – Volume of complaints revealed**

- I have however, one minor, tiny little gripe, directed mainly at the media.
- The biggest gripe most people will have is with game saves.
- All teachers have heard the old gripes, like why should I have to learn fractions?
- My only gripe about the article is that my picture should have been larger.
- Companies gripe that the strong Australian dollar may push them to move operations overseas.
- One big gripe people have about hybrid cars is they cost a few grand more than similar conventional models.
- The move is aimed at protecting staff from false allegations by pupils with a gripe.
- “You can do that in a gripe session in the car on the way home.” said mum.



## ACTIVITY 5 CHECK IT OUT

### Letter to the editor

Writing a letter to the editor of your newspaper is a great way to engage with a topic you're passionate about and to influence public opinion. Have a go by following these steps to help you.

1. Decide on the topic - a response to something you read in the paper or heard on the news that you are passionate, knowledgeable and excited about.
2. Write a simple salutation like :-To the editor or To the editor of The Daily Mail."
3. State the argument you're making or responding to.
4. State your position - clearly state the position you're taking on the issue and why you feel a certain way.
5. Provide evidence – back up your stated position on an issue, with some facts. Use recent events in your state or community as evidence. Use statistics, data, or survey results. Tell a personal story that tells a larger point. Use current events in politics for support.
6. Say what should be done - end the letter by saying what can be done to address the issue.
7. Have a simple closing - one sentence that summarizes your point of view on the issue so your readers have a clear reminder of your main message. Sign off with your name and your city and state of residence

#### Like laws working

THE facts speak for themselves: Since the new laws to eliminate criminal gangs were introduced, 336 criminal gang members and associates have been arrested on 711 charges including trafficking, supplying and possessing dangerous drugs, possession of restricted drugs, money laundering, extortion, armed robbery, arson, going armed to cause fear, theft, serious assault, unlawful possession of weapons and the list goes on. So I think the facts are starting to speak for themselves.

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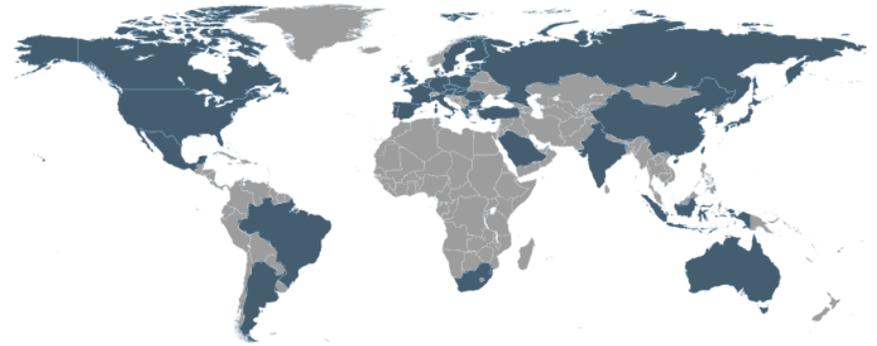


## ACTIVITY 6 NEWS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Who will be there?

Young leaders from across the world will come to Sydney in July for the Youth 20 (Y20) forum. It is a chance for youth from G20 member countries to voice their opinions.

**From the map below list the 20 member countries of the G20 that will be sending youth delegates to the Y20 forum.**



A _____	G _____	R _____
A _____	I _____	S _____ A _____
B _____	I _____	S _____ A _____
C _____	I _____	S _____ K _____
C _____	J _____	T _____
E _____	U _____	U _____ K _____
F _____	M _____	
	U _____	S _____ of A _____