

LPF Writing Exemplar

Pop Culture: Influences of Pop Singers on Young People*

Task Description

In this task, students wrote a letter to the Editor about pop singers for the School Newsletter. They talked about the good and bad influences of pop singers' music and lyrics, image, ways of living and attitudes towards life on young people. They gave their overall opinion on the topic.

Preparation

Before the writing activity, students watched a documentary about the lifestyle of different pop singers. Students then shared their views on the good and bad influences of pop singers in groups and noted down some ideas raised by others.

* This is the second of the four exemplars under the task set 'Pop Culture'. Prior to the writing activity, students had completed a reading task based on three texts about a pop singer.

Learning Outcomes: ATMs5-6

Content	Organisation	Language and Style
<p>ATM6 Writing texts to convey information, ideas, personal experiences and opinions on familiar topics with elaboration</p>	<p>ATM5 Linking ideas quite coherently in some parts of a text, and showing some overall organisation of ideas</p>	<p>ATM6 Using a range of generally appropriate and accurate language forms and functions, and generally appropriate tone, style, register and features of some text types</p>
<p>The student can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the good and bad influences of pop singers on young people with supporting examples, e.g. some pop singers encourage their fans to donate money and do charity work while some pop singers use foul language in public • present arguments of good influences that the pop singers can exert on young people with reasons and examples, e.g. ‘ ‘Love Too Late’...aims at conveying the right values to teenagers...The song convinces people to love their family...’ • present different points of views with supporting details, e.g. 	<p>The student can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use appropriate cohesive devices to establish links within some paragraphs, e.g. using ‘After all’ to contrast the wrong belief about the bad influences of pop singers on young people and ‘In a nutshell’ to sum up the writer’s overall opinion on the topic • arrange ideas in some paragraphs by using topic sentences to show a generally clear focus, e.g. ‘Another example of good influence is that some pop singers encourage their fans to donate money...’ in Paragraph 6, ‘After all, pop culture is only a kind of entertainment in our lives’ in the concluding paragraph • structure the text using paragraphs with a clear 	<p>The student can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use appropriate words or expressions to talk about the good things that pop singers did and their influences on young people, e.g. ‘donate’, ‘enrich’, ‘encourage’, ‘conveying the right values to teenagers’ ‘convinces people to love’, ‘urges teenagers to make contributions’ • switch between tenses appropriately for different situations in the letter, e.g. using the present continuous tense to indicate trends of bad influences that pop singers exerted on young people and using the simple present tense to talk about the writer’s own opinion at the present moment in Paragraph 4 ‘... pop singers are seriously affecting teenagers’ lives and misleading them to wrong values. However, I do not agree...’ • use the stylistic features

<p>‘...most people believe that pop singers are seriously affecting teenagers’ lives and misleading them to wrong values. However, I do not agree with them.... some pop singers produce songs with inspiring lyrics.’</p>	<p>focus, e.g. the writer made very clear the purpose of writing in Paragraph 1, describing details of the general beliefs about the bad influences that pop singers exerted on young people in Paragraphs 2-3, stating personal views about the good influences of pop singers on young people with reasons and supporting examples in Paragraphs 4-8 and ending with an overall personal view on the topic in Paragraph 9</p>	<p>appropriate to a letter to the editor, e.g. using ‘ Dear Editor’ as salutation and ‘Yours faithfully’ as closing in the letter</p>
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Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my opinions about the influences of pop singers on young people. I think pop singers have both positive and negative impacts on the younger generation. I will illustrate my views in different aspects.

The main medium of contact between pop singers and young people is pop music, so the pop singers' music and lyrics have a lot to do with the young people nowadays. Some songs have positive and meaningful lyrics, encouraging people to treasure life or to overcome obstacles in life. If young people listen to this type of music, they will become optimistic too. Unfortunately, the pop music culture is dominated by love songs. They are all about falling in love, breaking up and so on. If young people constantly listen to love songs, they may be overwhelmed by ~~the~~ "love" and become lovesick. They may ^{indulge} in the idea of being in love. This is not beneficial to young people because they may not be mature enough to handle "love". They may leave their study, family and friends ^{to pursue love} aside. This is harmful to their overall development.

The image of the pop singers is also very influential to the teenagers. Some singers participate much in charity and community service. They may drive more people to contribute to the society. This is good to the teenagers, as well as the society. However, there are bad examples too. Some singers engage in self-destructive behaviours, such as drug abuse. As young people tend to follow what their "idols" do, they may copy their bad habits altogether. This is definitely detrimental to the

teenagers. In more serious cases like substituting the criminal with another person, law and order is totally neglected. Young people may receive wrong values when blindly imitating the pop singers.

In conclusion, I think pop singers bring more negative impacts than positive ones. This is not a good social norm. I think pop singers should try to be a better role model for the teenagers. At the same time, teenagers should be more careful when choosing their "idols". I hope pop singers can bring more good influence to young people in the future.

Yours faithfully,
Ip Siu Tung

Number of words ()

Marker's use only	
Content	
Organisation	
Language	
Style	