

Name:

Class:

Teacher:

The curtain falls on *The Voice* for now

By Javier Vasquez

AFTER HOLDING Australian audiences captive for three months, last night's grand finale of *The Voice* felt as though it would never end. Like a sentimental auntie, it just couldn't say goodbye – for over two hours!

But for devoted fans, the wait was worth it. From the beginning, watching Delta, Seal, Keith and Joel 'not' watching in their enormous red mission-control seats thrilled millions of viewers; in the grand finale, the audience at home probably bopped, rocked and lip-synced along with these judges/mentors and their 'stars'.

Finally, a reality show had arrived where contestants were encouraged rather than exploited. Their talents were honed by the cast of visiting musicians, who no doubt had upcoming

album releases of their own (though it is nicer to think they offered help simply "for the love of music").

In many ways, the grand finale was a win-win for the four finalists – each was guaranteed professional networking and, of course, celebrity status. In the end, it was Karise Eden who sang her heart out and won, richly deserving the confetti shower and standing ovation. She wept, thanked her fans and then gave them a booming encore performance.

For *The Voice*-obsessed, the curtain won't be down for long: a second season has already been scheduled for 2013. Channel 9 will attempt to cash in the same way Channel 10 has with *MasterChef*. *The Voice* already has all the ingredients for a successful second series (except for the Australian talent, which will line up soon, of course). But I wonder: will the television executives be able to resist messing with the recipe?



Tasks

Complete an extended piece of writing that is in the style and format of a Text Response.

A Text Response gives a personal opinion of another text, event or experience.

You are going to write a review of the final episode of a reality TV show. Work through the steps and then write your own Text Response.

Glossary

adjective: A word that describes or modifies a noun. For example: the **small** box; a **sleepy** child; an **African** design; a **true** story; **three** merchants; a **harsh** winter; a **smoother** tone.

evaluative language: Language that contains a positive or negative value judgement about something. For example: His **unruly** behaviour let down the whole team.

grammatical Theme: A part of the grammatical structure of a sentence, other than its subject (or topic), that is given prominence by being used at the beginning of the sentence. For example: **In the early 1990s**, the bands Blur and Suede were part of the 'Britpop' music movement.

relating verb: A verb that links two pieces of information together. For example: I **am** happy.; The ocean is rough today.; The government **has** no right to interfere in this matter.; The girls **became** good friends.

Step 1: Choose your topic

1 What reality television show will you review? Some examples have been provided for you. Add three ideas of your own.

MasterChef Australia

So You Think You Can Dance

Survivor

The Amazing Race

2 Write the title of your Text Response. Use a title that identifies the focus of your Text Response.

Step 2: Background information

Before you can write your review, you need to know a bit about the show you have chosen. Use these questions as a starting point for your research.

- 1 Describe what happens on the final episode of your show.
- 2 Reality shows usually end with a 'winner'. Does your show have just one winner, a team that wins, or something else?
- 3 Explain how the winner is chosen. Is there a panel of judges, a public vote or a challenge?
- 4 Describe the prize for the winner. Do the runners-up get anything? If so, describe it.
- 5 How long does the finale go for?
- 6 Who are the host and judges of the show? Explain if they have any experience that makes them a good choice for the show.

Step 3: Language features of Text Responses

Find two examples of each language feature used in *The curtain falls on The Voice for now*.

1 adjective:

2 evaluative language:

Step 3: Language features of Text Responses continued

3 relating verb:

4 sentence with a grammatical Theme:

Step 4: Language features for your Text Response

- 1 Write one sentence using some adjectives to describe one of the people featured in your TV show.
- 2 Write two sentences about your show using grammatical Themes. Think about what you want readers to focus on in the sentence.

Step 5: Structure

Text Responses have three stages: Context, Description and Judgement. Describe what happens in each stage in *The curtain falls on The Voice for now*. Write one or two sentences for each stage.

- 1 Context – the writer makes it clear what text, event or experience they are responding to, and gives a brief statement of their opinion
- 2 Description – the writer describes some aspects of the text, event or experience they are responding to, such as highlights from the episode
- 3 Judgement – the writer expresses their opinions in more detail

Step 6: Create your own text

You are now ready to write your Text Response. Use the background information in **Step 2** and follow the structure in **Step 5**. Include the language features in **Step 3** and **Step 4**. Don't go into too much detail about what happens in the episode. Instead, use particular moments to support your opinions.

If you are unsure about where to start, take another look at *The curtain falls on The Voice for now*. Remember to use full sentences, and correct punctuation and spelling!

Teacher comments